サムライうなぎ

FUKUSHIMA TEPPEI

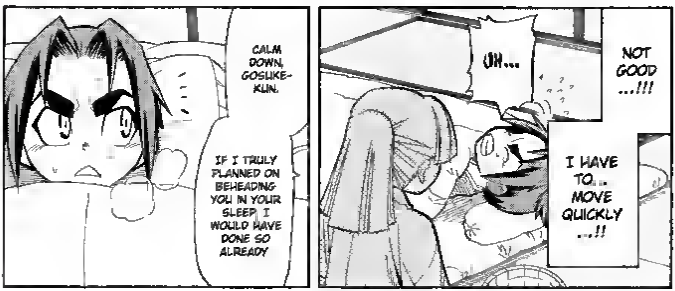
6

THE SECOND ROUND BEGINS

JUMP COMICS

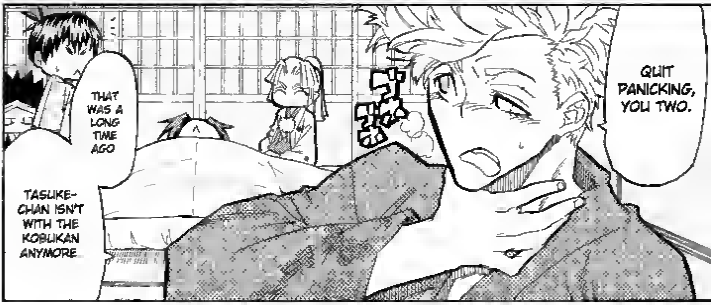
CHAPTER FORTY-FOUR: HONAMI'S REMINISCENCE

IT CAN'T BE...
HONAMI-DONO WAS...

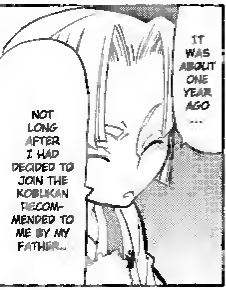

CALM DOWN, GOSUKE-KUN.
IF I TRULY PLANNED ON BEHEADING YOU IN YOUR SLEEP, I WOULD HAVE DONE SO ALREADY
UH...
NOT GOOD ...!!!
I HAVE TO... MOVE QUICKLY ...!!

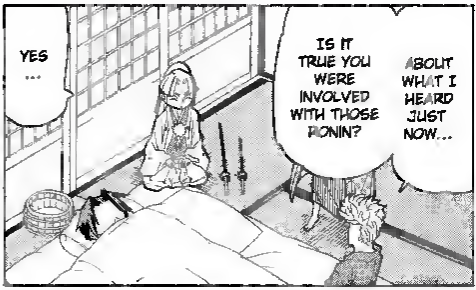
ばりーん!!!
ORYA AAA!!
WAH!!
OUGH... WAI... HAN-ZOU...
ARE YOU GONNA SIT BACK AND BE A COWARD, SETTSH-AN!!?
HON-AMI...
YOU...

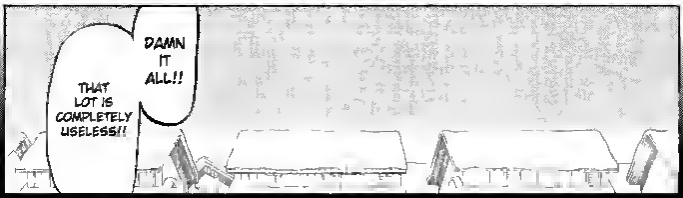
GOT A NEW HAORI, DIDN'T YOU!
IT'S SUPER SMOOTH! WHAT IS THIS, SILK?
NO, KAZAMA-SAMA!!
THAT HAORI IS FROM THE KOBUKAN!!
YOU'RE BETRAYING US, AREN'T YOU HONAMI-SAMA!!


QUIT PANICKING, YOU TWO.
THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO
TASUKE-CHAN ISN'T WITH THE KOBUKAN ANYMORE

!
YOU KNEW ABOUT IT, SETTSU-DONO!?
THAT'S OBVIOUS, ISN'T IT?
THE ONE WHO RECRUITED HIM WAS ME AFTER ALL
IF WE WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THOSE GUYS THEN THERE'S NO ONE BETTER TO TELL US BUT HIM, RIGHT?
STILL ...







※A POLICE OFFICER IN SERVICE OF THE MAGISTRATE DURING THE EDO PERIOD.

WHY DO THEY EVEN HAVE RANKING CONSTABLES※ IF THEY'RE ALL SUCH BLOCKHEADS!?
TO THINK THEY HAD THE GALL TO ASK FOR OUR HELP IN CAPTURING THOSE FIENDISH RONIN!!
TRY TO CALM DOWN, INUI-SAN.

THAT THOSE CRIMINALS ARE AIMING FOR THE KOBUKAN
TWO OF OURS WERE ALSO KILLED DURING A SURPRISE ATTACK JUST YESTERDAY
WE HAVE TO CAPTURE THEM BEFORE WORTHLESS RUMOURS BEGIN TO PILE UP...

T/N: FUKUGAWA...A REGION OF EDO, AND KODENMACHOU IS A SPOT IN FUKUGAWA.

ぐぉ!
……
だっ!!
EEE EEE EH!!
ぐぉぉぉん!!!
WH... WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY...
IS HE.. EVEN HUMAN ...?
!!!
ス...

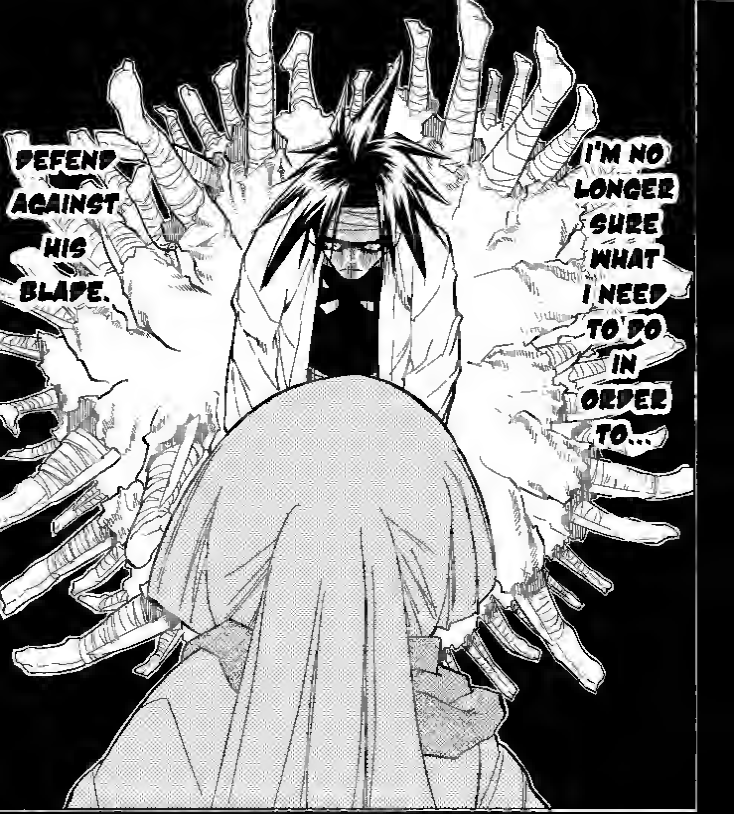
WHAT ...DID Y...
B... BAS- TARD ...
UGH!!!
GU... URK...
FUTURE RONIN TSURUYA
KISHI SHI ..YOU NEVER CHANGE, HUH?
FUTURE RONIN UZURA
HOW SO?
MOZUKUCCHI CAN HANDLE ANYTHING BUT WILL SUZUMECCHI BE OKAY?
"CHI"?
I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY NEED TO WORRY
PLEASE DON'T SAY BAD THINGS ABOUT MY "BEAK."
STILL, IT LOOKS LIKE THE KOBUKAN IS ACTING ON THEIR OWN TODAY.
I MEAN THIS SLY WAY OF DOING THINGS, SEEEE?

AS LONG AS SHE HAS THOSE CHAINED SWORDS
COME ON, COME ON, COME ON, COME OOOON!!!
WHAT KIND OF KATANA ARE THOSE?
IT'S LIKE A WALL..
QUIT THINKING LIKE FOOLS AND CALM DOWN.
IT'S JUST A GIRL'S ACT OF SWORD-PLAY.
AFTER OBSERVING CAREFULLY, IT CAN BE BEATEN BY TRUE SWORDS-MANSHIP.
I SEE IT!!

GYA AAA AH!!
DON'T TAKE ME LIGHTLY
IF YOU'RE USING A KATANA THEN THERE'S NO WAY I'LL BE BEAT, MOROOON
THIS... THIS LITTLE GIRL!!
YOU AREN'T EVEN OF THE SAMURAI CLASS, AND YET YOU CARRY A SWORD...
ARE YOU NOT AWARE THAT SUCH AN OUTRAGE IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN?
.....

BUT THAT'S UNFAIR, AIN'T IT!
YOU GUYS ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO GET TO CARRY TOOLS OF MURDER AT YOUR WAISTS...
LIKE THAT, YOU GUYS CAN UNFAIRLY GET RID OF US ONE BY ONE...
'TILL WE'RE ALL GONE, BENEFITING ONLY YOURSELVES!
.....
TCH!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU MORON! PULLARD!! HAPPY-GO-LUCKY FREAK!!
HURRY UP AND END THIS, HONAMI!!!
YOU WERE QUICK TO ABANDON ME BUT...
COMING BACK AFTERWARDS IS EVEN WORSE...!
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE EVERYONE IS TOO USED TO NORMAL SWORDSMANSHIP TECHNIQUES.
BUT WHEN THE ATTACK COMES FROM THE LEGS...

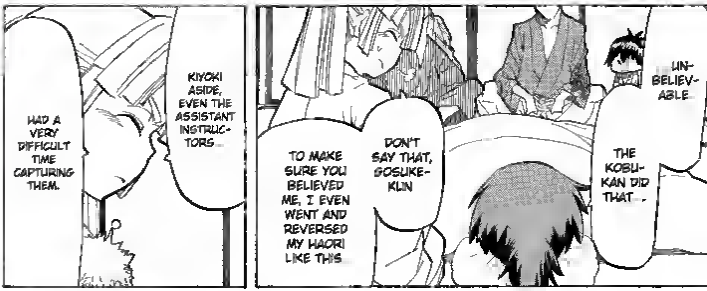

I'M NO LONGER SURE WHAT I NEED TO DO IN ORDER TO...
DEFEND AGAINST HIS BLADE.

SO YOU'RE CALLED... HONAMI, HUH.
YOUR EYES MUST BE PRETTY GOOD GIVEN HOW YOU'VE MANAGED TO KEEP UP WITH MY SWORD STRIKES FOR THIS LONG...
BUT...
THE HEAD. ABDOMEN. FORE-ARMS.
IN A TALENTLESS SWORDFIGHT, VITALS AREN'T THE ONLY PLACES TO STRIKE!
!!

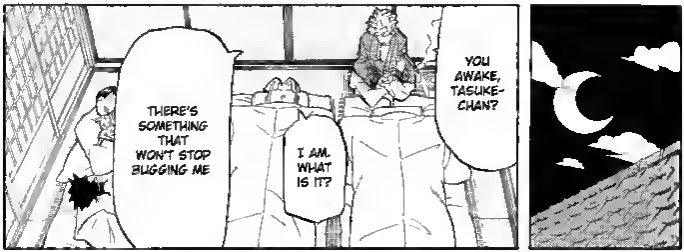
MY FEET ...!!!
!!
IN THAT CASE, I'LL END YOUR LIFE-
PASSED OUT HUH.

HOW DIS-APPOINT-ING...
Hff...
Hff...
I ASSUMED I WOULDN'T HAVE TO BE BOTHERED WITH INTERVENING HERE.

...I DON'T RECALL WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT.
FROM WHAT I WAS TOLD, KIYOKI AND THE HIGH-RANKING ASSISTANT INSTRUCTORS CAPTURED THEM ALL...
AND BROUGHT THEM TO THE MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE.

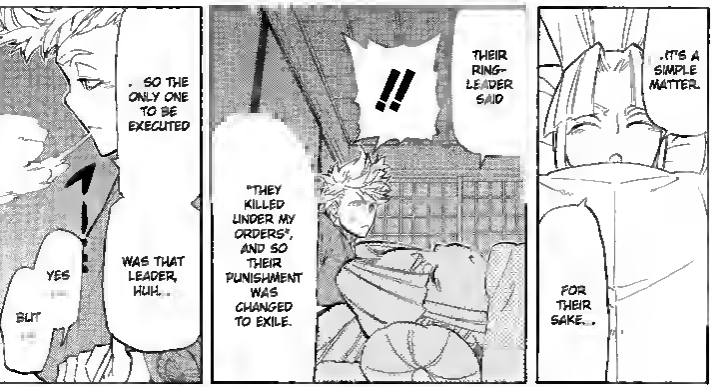

UN-BELIEV-ABLE
THE KOBU-KAN DID THAT...
DON'T SAY THAT, GOSUKE-KUN
TO MAKE SURE YOU BELIEVED ME, I EVEN WENT AND REVERSED MY HAORI LIKE THIS
KIYOKI ASIDE, EVEN THE ASSISTANT INSTRUC-TORS...
HAD A VERY DIFFICULT TIME CAPTURING THEM.

THOSE RONIN ARE REALLY SOMETHING ELSE.
I'M NOT SAYING WE HAVE TO GO TO THE MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE NO MATTER WHAT,
BUT I DO THINK WE SHOULD CONSIDER OUR NEXT MOVE CAREFULLY, GOSUKE-CHAN
.....

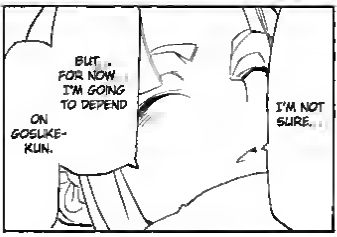


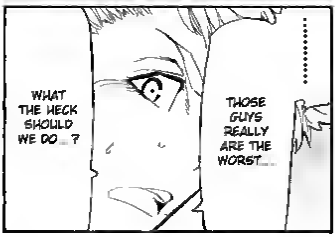
WOULDN'T EXECUTION OR SITTING AT THE PRISON GATE※ BE MORE COMMON?
THOSE RONIN... AFTER DOING ALL THAT, DOESN'T EXILE SEEM LIKE TOO LIGHT A PUNISHMENT?

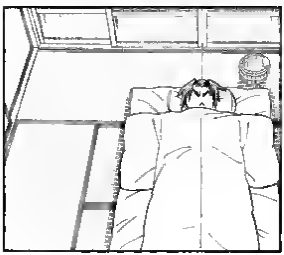
※TO PUT A DECAPITATED HEAD ON DISPLAY. THIS WAS CONSIDERED A GREATER PUNISHMENT THEN SIMPLE EXECUTION

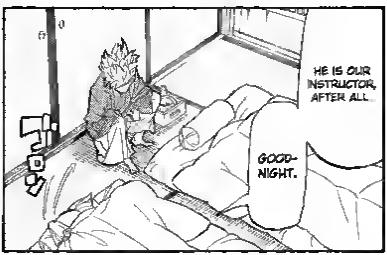

. SO THE ONLY ONE TO BE EXECUTED
WAS THAT LEADER, HUH..
YES
BUT
!!
"THEY KILLED UNDER MY ORDERS", AND SO THEIR PUNISHMENT WAS CHANGED TO EXILE.
THEIR RING-LEADER SAID
.IT'S A SIMPLE MATTER.
FOR THEIR SAKE..

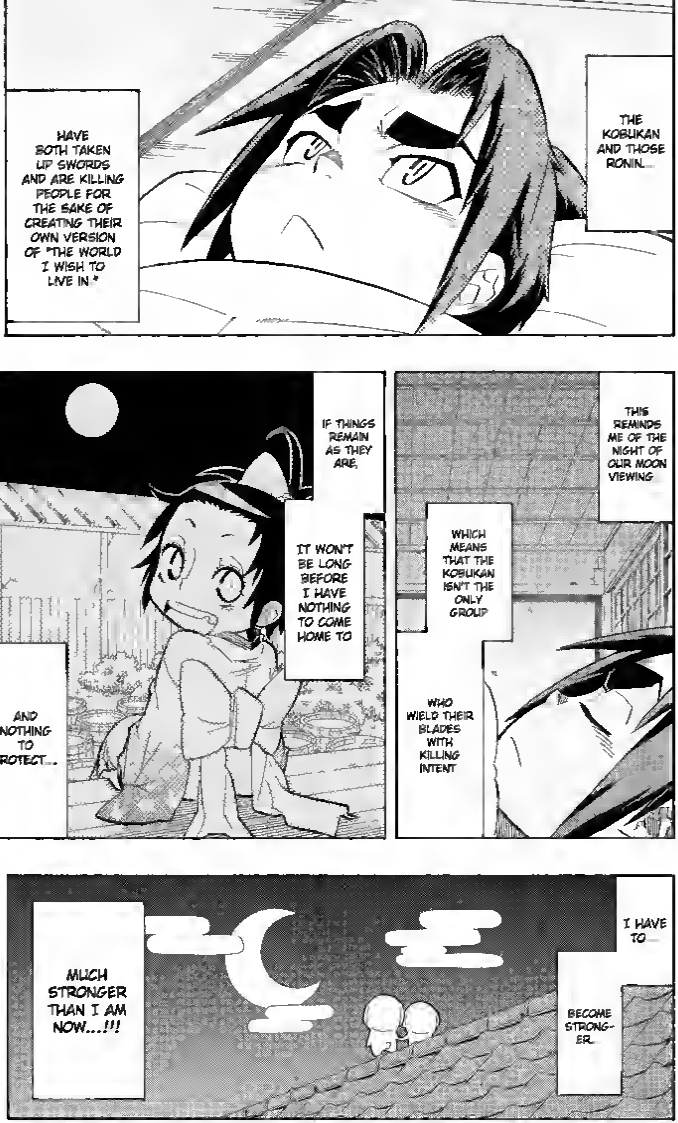
IT'S BEEN RUMOURED THAT
IN ORDER TO ESCAPE THE DEATH PENALTY,
THEY FORCED ONE OF THEIR COMRADES TO ACT AS LEADER.


BUT... FOR NOW I'M GOING TO DEPEND ON GOSUKE-KUN.
I'M NOT SURE...


WHAT THE HECK SHOULD WE DO...?
THOSE GUYS REALLY ARE THE WORST...




HE IS OUR INSTRUCTOR, AFTER ALL.
GOOD-NIGHT.
ゴロン


HAVE BOTH TAKEN UP SWORDS AND ARE KILLING PEOPLE FOR THE SAKE OF CREATING THEIR OWN VERSION OF "THE WORLD I WISH TO LIVE IN."
THE KOBUKAN AND THOSE RONIN...
IF THINGS REMAIN AS THEY ARE,
IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE I HAVE NOTHING TO COME HOME TO
AND NOTHING TO PROTECT...
THIS REMINDS ME OF THE NIGHT OF OUR MOON VIEWING
WHICH MEANS THAT THE KOBUKAN ISN'T THE ONLY GROUP
WHO WIELD THEIR BLADES WITH KILLING INTENT
MUCH STRONGER THAN I AM NOW...!!!
I HAVE TO...
BECOME STRONGER.

SAMURAI USAGI SCANLATION

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FOR ANY IN-DEPTH INQUIERES, FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME PERSONALLY THROUGH E-MAIL.

qrrbrbirlbel@hotmail.com

CHAPTER FORTY-FIVE: SWORDSMITH OF THE BAMBOO THICKET

EDO CASTLE
WHAT SHALL WE DO?
WE WON'T DO ANYTHING.
I'VE HEARD TALK OF A GROUP OF RONIN WHO ESCAPED FROM THEIR ISLAND OF EXILE.
BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY. THE PEOPLE AT THE MAGISTRATE'S OFFICE KNOW HOW TO DO THEIR JOBS
E... EVEN SO...
FOR THE SECOND ROUND TO BE A FIVE-ON-FIVE SWORDSMANSHIP DUAL
HOLDING IT THREE DAYS FROM NOW IS MAY BE TOO SOON.
DON'T GET FLUSTERED.
THIS MATCH WILL CONTINUE AS PLANNED
NO MATTER WHAT!
YES SIR ...!!
PLEASE FORGIVE MY-
I GET HOW YOU FEEL, THOUGH
AFTER ALL, KNOWING THAT THERE'S A PACK OF CRIMINALS OUT ROAMING THE STREETS WOULDN'T SIT WELL WITH ANYONE
Hup
Hup

BUT THE CONSTABLES HAVE BEEN SEARCHING AROUND
AND THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY REPORTED ATTACKS YET
THAT MAY BE TRUE,
BUT TO HEAR NOTHING AT ALL IS ALSO ODD...!

.....
HONAMI-DONO!!
THIS IS QUITE THE BAMBOO THICKET.
ARE WE THERE YET, HONAMI?
IT'S JUST A BIT FURTHER.

I KNOW THAT WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME BEFORE THE UPCOMING MATCH!!
EVEN SO, I...
I HAVE TO BECOME STRONGER SOME-HOW!!
IF THERE IS ANYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE, PLEASE TELL ME!!
H-HOLD ON, GOSUKE-CHAN.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT, GOSUKE-KUN
AND I...
DIDN'T TELL YOU THAT OLD STORY JUST TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE "AT THIS RATE, THE USAGI DOJO HAS NO CHANCE OF WINNING."
DON'T WORRY.
I ALSO THOUGHT ABOUT IT DURING OUR FIGHT WITH THE HARUBA DOJO, BUT...
YOU STILL HAVE SOME ROOM FOR GROWTH, GOSUKE-KUN.
THIS IS VERY LUCKY.

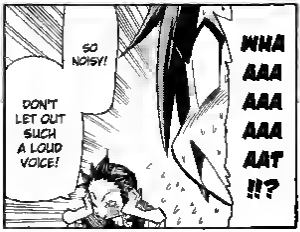
THERE'S A PLACE I'D LIKE TO GUIDE YOU TO-
THE HERMITAGE OF A CERTAIN SWORD-SMITH
FROM WHAT I KNOW, CALLING HIM "THE WORLD'S BEST" WOULD NOT BE AN EXAGGERATION.
IF WE GO THERE, YOU'LL HAVE A MUCH BETTER CHANCE OF GROWING STRONGER THAN IF YOU WERE TO SPEND THE NEXT THREE DAYS SWINGING A SHINAI IN THE DOJO
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
PLEASE DO SO!!
"THE WORLD'S BEST SWORD-SMITH"...
WHAT SORT OF PERSON WOULD THAT BE...?
MASTER GOSHUKE!!
THIS IS SO COOL!!
THE BAMBOO SHOOTS GROWING HERE ARE SUPER HUGE!!
ISN'T THAT A LITTLE WEIRD!!?
OH!!?
"GREAT BAMBOO PILLARS"
THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN CALLING THEM FOR THE TIME BEING.

AFTER RESEARCHING THEM FOR A LITTLE BIT... IT SEEMS THAT THEY'RE PRETTY STURDY, BUT THEY ONLY GROW ABOUT HALF AS TALL AS REGULAR BAMBOO SHOOTS
コンコン
IT'S NOT LIKE THEY CAN'T BE USED, BUT THE TIME AND LABOUR COSTS ARE SO HIGH THAT NO ONE WANTS TO COME TAKE ANY OF THEM.
BUT, WELL...
THE SWORDSMITH
KIYOHITO

I'M A BIT GLAD THAT NO UNWANTED GUYS COME BY HERE
THIS WAY, I'M ABLE TO DEVOTE MYSELF TO FORGING KATANA WITHOUT WORRY

HM?
YOU'RE THE SAME AS ALWAYS,
KIYOHITO-SAN.
UH WHA
WHY ARE YOUR EYEBROWS SO THICK?
HOW OLD ARE YOU?
WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
BY THE WAY, WHO ARE YOU?
YOU GUYS MUST BE THE MEMBERS OF THAT USAGI DOJO, RIGHT?
HONAMI-KUN...? THAT REMINDS ME-
OH, I SEE!!
AND NOW HERE YOU ARE.
SAYING THAT HE'D PROBABLY BRING YOU HERE SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE...
HONAMI-KUN TOLD ME ABOUT YOU GUYS A LITTLE WHILE AGO,

SO YOU WANT TO GET STRONGER. IS THAT RIGHT?
There's a whole bunch of swords here!
Y... YES!!
BY ANY MEANS, PLEASE!!


WHA AAA AAA AAA AAT !!?
SO NOISY!
DON'T LET OUT SUCH A LOUD VOICE!

SECOND APPRENTICE SENJI
FIRST APPRENTICE GONTA
SURE THING
OF COURSE!
FOR YOU IT'LL BE TWO HUNDRED RYO AND A THOUSAND FOR ALL FIVE

A...
SO HE SAYS, GOSSAN.
I'M GOING BACK
KATAMA-DONO!!

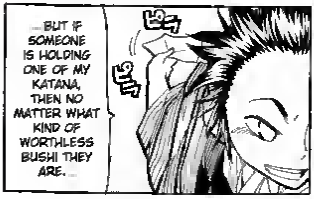
I WAS ONLY GIVING YOU THE PRICE FOR THE KATANA ON DISPLAY
SINCE YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO GET STRONGER,
I DON'T GET WHY YOU'RE MAKING SUCH A FUSS
ER...

A NEW KATANA WON'T DO ANYTHING TO MAKE YOU STRONGER.
YEP
I DON'T WANNA RACK UP ANY MORE DEBTS WITH KASHIROU-CHAN EITHER.
HO... HOLD ON, YOU TWO!!
.....
CERTAINLY, IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU HAVE MUCH USE FOR A KATANA.
!
I BET YOU PREFER TO FIGHT USING A SERIES OF PUNCHING AND KICKING STYLES
YOU SEEM TO HAVE A LOT OF STRENGTH THANKS TO PHYSICAL EXERCISE, BUT...
IT'S A SHAME THAT YOU CAN'T PUT THAT INTO YOUR CUTTING TECHNIQUE.
!
UNLIKE YOUR COMPANIONS, IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR STRONG POINT IS BEING ABLE TO HANDLE A HOE.
YOU'RE A PEASANT, RIGHT?
STANDING BESIDE YOU IS A PRETTY SKILFUL GUY.
INCREASING HIS STRENGTH MIGHT JUST BE A NATURAL TALENT OF HIS.
AND THE KEY TO YOUR STRENGTH IS IN YOUR LEGS.
YOUR METHOD OF RUSHING FORWARD IN A BURST OF ENERGY MAY BE FITTING, BUT...
IT'S STILL SLOPPY AND INCOMPLETE.
.....

KIYOHITO-DONO...IN JUST ONE GLANCE, HE WAS ABLE TO SEE HOW ALL OF US FOUGHT...
HE IS NO ORDINARY MAN...
THE KATANA I FORGE ARE THE VERY BEST, YOU SEE?
DON'T YOU THINK PAYING TWO HUNDRED RYO NOW TO OWN ONE OF THOSE FOR A LIFETIME IS A GOOD DEAL?
HANZOU CAN DO WHAT HE WANTS, BUT YOU HAVE TO THINK CLEARLY, GOSUKE-CHAN!
It doesn't matter if it is me?
WHAT IF YOU PAY THAT HUGE SUM OF MONEY, ONLY TO HAVE HIM MAKE YOU A DULL SWORD?
COME ON, YOU GUYS!!
WE'LL TAKE THEM!
IT'S A REAL BARGAIN, FOR SURE!!
WELL THEN YOU'RE GOING TO EAT YOUR WORDS
ONCE YOU TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.
GONTA! FETCH ME A KATANA PAPER!
RIGHT AWAY!
.. YOU'RE STILL VOICING YOUR OPINION DESPITE BEING A VISITOR ON MY PROPERTY, HUH

スパッ!!

……?
……?


...BUT IF SOMEONE IS HOLDING ONE OF MY KATANA, THEN NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF WORTHLESS BUSHI THEY ARE...
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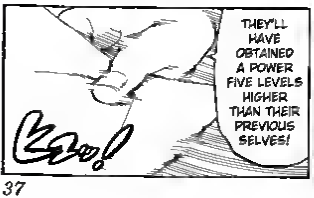
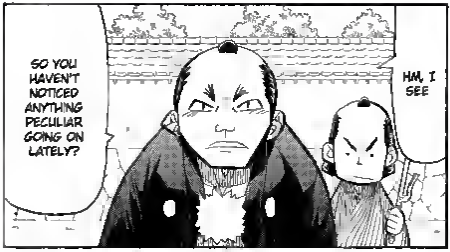
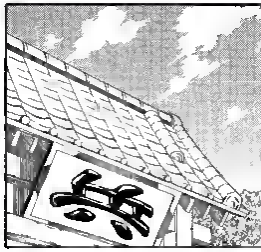

THEY'LL HAVE OBTAINED A POWER FIVE LEVELS HIGHER THAN THEIR PREVIOUS SELVES!
ヒュン!

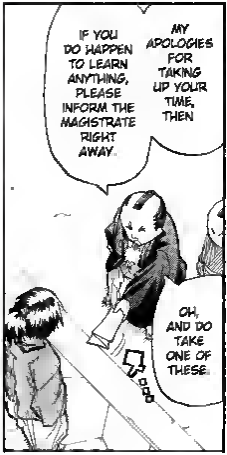
YOU MUST BE PRETTY CONFUSED, MISTER GOLDEN HAIRED SAMURAI!
OH YEAH, THAT KATANA SURE CAN CUT!
LET'S GO, GOSLIKE-CHAN.

THE KATANA WAS... SPLIT IN TWO!!!

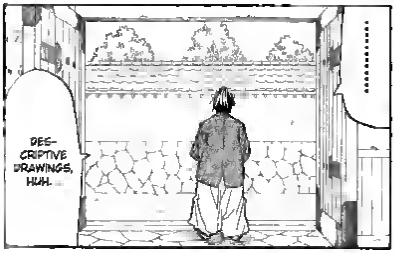
!!
IS THIS FOR REAL ...?
.....
COMPARED TO THAT DULL KATANA GIVEN TO YOU BY YOUR SUPERIORS,
EVEN THIS PIECE OF PAPER CUT BY ONE OF MINE IS WAY SHARPER!
I BELIEVE THAT THE KATANA I CREATE ARE THE ABSOLUTE BEST.
AND FOR THAT REASON, THEY COME AT A GREAT COST...
THEN LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS.
NO ONE'S THINKING THINGS LIKE "I HAVE NO NEED FOR A KATANA OTHER THAN MY OWN" ANYMORE, RIGHT?
IF SO, THEN I GUARANTEE YOU'LL BE FIVE TO TEN TIMES STRONGER ONCE WE'RE THROUGH-
IF YOU'RE UP TO IT, THAT IS.
AND THAT IS THE ABILITY TO WIELD THEM FREELY.
DO YOU GUYS FEEL UP TO THE TASK OF BECOMING SUITABLE HUMANS?


SO YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED ANYTHING PECULIAR GOING ON LATELY?
HM, I SEE




IF YOU DO HAPPEN TO LEARN ANYTHING, PLEASE INFORM THE MAGISTRATE RIGHT AWAY.
MY APOLOGIES FOR TAKING UP YOUR TIME, THEN
OH, AND DO TAKE ONE OF THESE.

BUT OF COURSE!
WE ARE ALL FOCUSED ON TRAINING FOR THE UPCOMING MATCH!


.....
DES-CRIPTIVE DRAWINGS, HUH.

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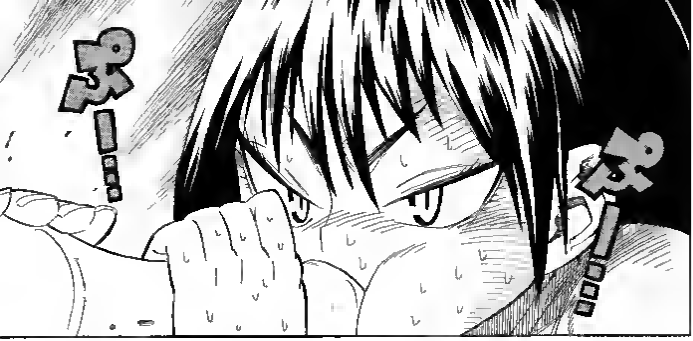
ﾌﾟﾙﾌﾟﾙ…
ﾌﾙﾌﾙ…!!

IS SOMETHING WRONG, SUZUME-SAN?
HM?

HEY!
……

AT THIS RATE I'M GONNA BE WORN OUT BEFORE THE MATCH EVEN STARTS!!
ABOUT THE MATCH, TSURU-YAN…
"YAN"?
WHAT IS IT?

NOW, NOW OUR MATCH IS COMING UP SOON,
SO I'VE GOT TO REST WELL BEFORE THEN…
ほがが…
YOU'RE TAKING WAY TOO LONG! LET'S SWITCH ALREADY!!!
AS IF YOU NEED TO ASK ME THAT !!!

DO YOU THINK... HE'LL MAKE IT IN TIME?
IT'S A FIVE-ON-FIVE MATCH, ISN'T IT? THERE'S ONLY FOUR OF US RIGHT NOW...
WELL, WELL, IF IT ISN'T MASTER GENBA
WHAT'S THAT PIECE OF PAPER ABOUT?
HM. WELL...
A CONSTABLE CAME BY TO ASK A FEW INVESTIGATION QUESTIONS.
AND GAVE ME A DESCRIPTIVE DRAWING OF YOU ALL BEFORE LEAVING.
HMM...
WELL, I THINK HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE IT IN TIME, DON'T YOU?
AFTER ALL, THEY DO HAVE FIVE FACES ALREADY DRAWN HERE.

?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, SUZUME-SAN?
Step Step Step Step Step Step
IT LOOKS LIKE HE BORROWED SUZUMECCHI'S CONCEALING HAT, THOUGH.
WHO KNOWS... SHOPPING, MAYBE?
BY THE WAY, WHAT'S HAPPENED TO MOZUKU-SAN?
I'M GONNA GO KILL WHOEVER DREW THIS
WHA- SUZUME -SAN!!?
ISN'T IT BETTER IF IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU!!?

I DON'T REALLY GET WHY HE TOLD US TO STAND HERE LIKE THIS...
WHAT IS IT? ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GUARD THE FIRE OR SOMETHING?
.....

WHERE ARE THE OTHER GUYS?
IT SEEMS THEY'VE BEEN GIVEN DIFFERENT THINGS TO DO...
THAT SO...
STILL, THAT SWORD-SMITH...

HM...

UWA AAA AAH !!?

UDAGAWA-KUN AND KAZAMA-KUN. AM I RIGHT?
DO YOU GET WHAT YOU NEED TO DO NOW?
THE BAMBOO BURST APART—
THE. .
IF YOU CAN AVOID GETTING A SINGLE SCRATCH FROM ONE OF THESE EXPLODING BAMBOO PILLARS,
I'LL ACKNOWLEDGE YOU AS HUMANS THAT ARE WORTHY OF WIELDING ONE OF MY SPECIALLY MADE KATANA.
HOWEVER!
IF YOU'RE UNABLE TO SUCCEED BEFORE THE DAY OF THE MATCH, YOU'LL GIVE UP AND GO HOME.
GOT IT?
UN... UNDERSTOOD !!!
THIS SEEMS QUITE INTERESTING, DON'T YOU THINK? KAZAMA-DONO!!
YEAH! I'M REAL FIRED UP NOW, GOSSAN!!
FIRED UP? HUH? IT'S MORE THAN THAT
OH! WELL THAT'S JUST FINE!

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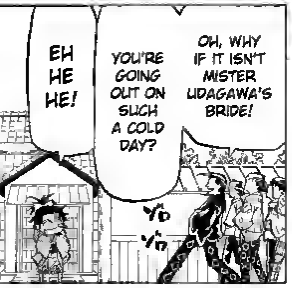
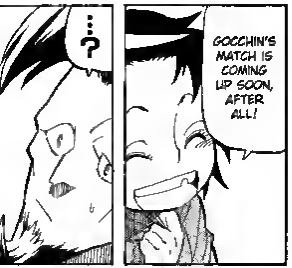
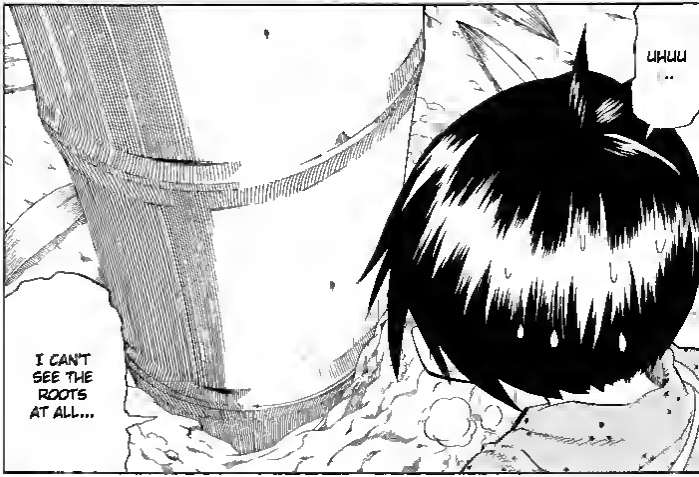
CHAPTER FORTY-SIX: THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THE WORLD





AND THAT!!
TAKE THIS!!

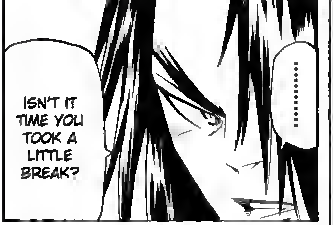

UHUU..
I CAN'T SEE THE ROOTS AT ALL...

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT FROM THE ONE PLAYING CARDS!!
This is so fun!
WELLLL, THERE'S JUST NO HELPING IT! KYOHITO TOLD ME TO, AFTER ALL!
SHUT UP, SETTSU-SAMA!!!
HEY, HEY, QUIT BEING SO LAZY CHIYOKICHI!!!
GOSUKE-CHAN AND HANZOU NEED TO USE THAT, SO HURRY UP AND DIG IT OUT ALREADY!

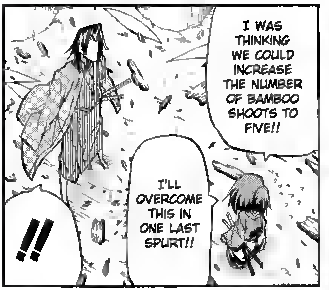
WHAT'S THIS? YOU HAVEN'T FINISHED DIGGING OUT A SINGLE ONE!
I WON'T FEEL LIKE MAKING A KATANA FOR YOU AT THIS RATE!
I... I'LL DO MY BEST!!
HOW'S EVERY-THING GOING?
OH, KIYO-HITO-SAMA!
YOU'RE KIDDING ME!!?
BUT IT'S MY WIN...
UM. I'M SORRY TO SAY THIS,
STILL... WHAT'S THE POINT OF DOING ALL THIS...?
I'M NOT SURE EITHER
BUT...
OKAY!!!
I'LL BE BACK TO CHECK ON YOU IN A LITTLE WHILE
IN THAT CASE, I'LL HEAD OVER TO WHERE UDAGAWA-KUN AND KAZAMA-KUN ARE
HONAMI-SAMA INTRODUCED US TO HIM... AND HIS KATANA ARE REALLY AMAZING...
WE'VE GOT NOT CHOICE BUT TO DO AS HE SAYS FOR NOW!!!
I GUESS SO
UM... SORRY, IT'S MY WIN...
AGAIN, REALLY !!?

……
ぐっ…
!!!
ドゴォ!!

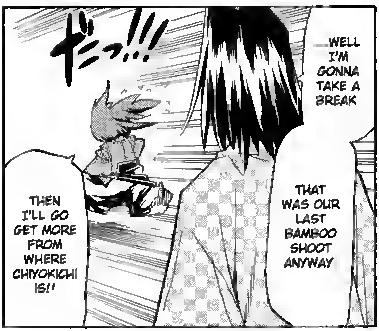
I'M NOT GONNA LET THE LIKES OF SOME BAMBOO SHOOT UNDER-ESTIMATE MEEEEEEE!!!
ガッ
ガッ
ガッ
ガッ!!
HA...
TCH!
LOOKS LIKE I'VE GOT A WAYS TO GO.
BUT I THINK I'M REALLY GETTING THE HANG OF IT NOW!
HOW ABOUT YOU, GOSSAN?


ISN'T IT TIME YOU TOOK A LITTLE BREAK?
.....

THERE-FORE, KAZAMA-DONO ..
I HAVE TO GET STRONGER NO MATTER WHAT!!
NO! I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT!!


!!
I'LL OVERCOME THIS IN ONE LAST SPURT!!
I WAS THINKING WE COULD INCREASE THE NUMBER OF BAMBOO SHOOTS TO FIVE!!

HA
HA


ダッ!!!
THEN I'LL GO GET MORE FROM WHERE CHIYOKICHI IS!!
THAT WAS OUR LAST BAMBOO SHOOT ANYWAY
WELL I'M GONNA TAKE A BREAK

NO! NOT AT ALL!!
I THINK THAT'S A LITTLE MUCH, GOSSAN

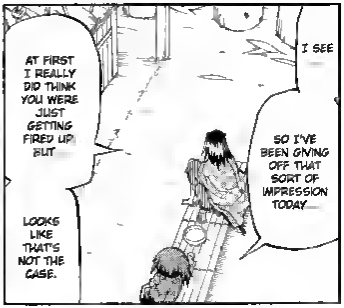
.....
OHO...
.....
カサ...
YOU CAN'T, MASTER!!
PLEASE GO AWAY!!!
UM BUT...
THIS IS SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO!!
THERE'S NO POINT IF YOU HELP ME!!!
THEN LET'S DO THIS!!
YOU CAN HOLD THE HOE WHILE I HOLD YOU, AND-
ザッ ザッ ザッ
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!!?
YOU'VE BEEN ACTING REALLY WEIRD TODAY, MASTER!
NOW I GET IT...
SO THE PERSON I'M SEEING HERE ISN'T THE USUAL UDAGAWA-KUN
KIYO-HITO-DONO!!

GO REST WITH KAZAMA-KUN FOR A LITTLE WHILE
I HAD SOME TEA AND CAKES PUT OUT OVER THERE.
.....
.....
THE CAKES ARE ALL GONE...
TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH, GOSSAN.
LET'S REST UP 'TILL THE NEXT BAMBOO SHOOT IS READY
HM WHAT IS IT?
I'M ONLY SAYING THIS BECAUSE IT LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED YET, BUT
ALTHOUGH IT'S FINE TO GET FIRED UP... HOW DO I PUT IT... WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS LIKE A WASTE OF EFFORT OR.
.....
HEY, GOSSAN

IT'S AS IF YOU'RE JUST FORCING YOURSELF
INTO THINKING ABOUT GETTING STRONGER.
HUH?

WHY DO YOU SEEK STRENGTH?
KA... KAZA-MA-DONO
HN?

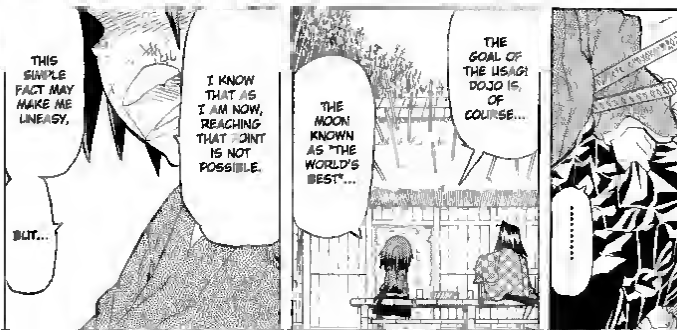
.....


I SEE
SO I'VE BEEN GIVING OFF THAT SORT OF IMPRESSION TODAY...
AT FIRST I REALLY DID THINK YOU WERE JUST GETTING FIRED UP, BUT
LOOKS LIKE THAT'S NOT THE CASE.

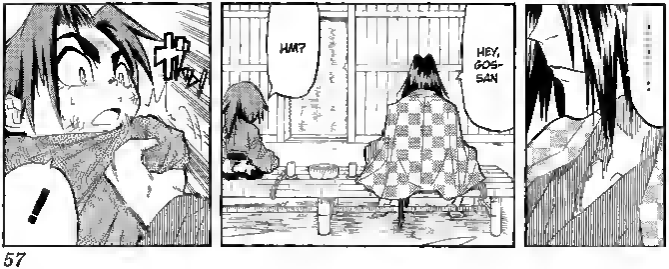
WELL, SOME STUFF HAPPENED IN THE PAST...
YOU'RE SUPER WEAK, HANZOU!
I'M TAKING THIS SPIN TOP!!
UH HU...

NOPE. THAT'S IT.
IF I WERE STRONGER, THAT SPIN TOP WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN STOLEN FROM ME.
EEEH!!? THAT'S ALL!?
I-ISN'T THERE MORE, KAZA-MA-PONO !!?
LIKE THAT!

IF YOU BECOME STRONG, YOU WON'T HAVE ANY REGRETS.
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S SO, GOSSAN?


THIS SIMPLE FACT MAY MAKE ME UNEASY,
BUT...
I KNOW THAT AS I AM NOW, REACHING THAT POINT IS NOT POSSIBLE.
THE MOON KNOWN AS "THE WORLD'S BEST"...
THE GOAL OF THE USAGI DOJO IS, OF COURSE...
.....

THOSE RONIN, AND THE BLOODY BATTLE THAT'S STARTING TO UNFOLD...
IS THIS THE PATH THAT WILL LEAD TO BEING THE WORLD'S BEST?
THE REASON I CREATED THE USAGI DOJO... I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD BE FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS...
SOME-WHERE IN MY HEART...
I MAY HAVE BEEN REJECTING THE IDEA OF GETTING STRONGER...


!
HM?
HEY, GOS-SAN
...

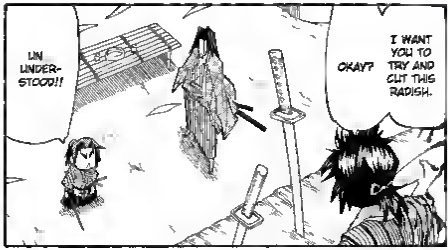
NO FIGHTING!

AND LEAVING YOUR THOUGHTS ASIDE FOR A MOMENT, UDAGAWA-KUN.

I WAS THINKING OF HAVING THIS RADISH AS OUR SIDE-DISH FOR TONIGHT, SO...

USING THAT KATANA OF MINE I JUST THREW DOWN THERE...

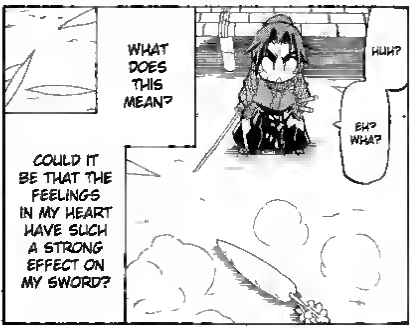
ヒュン!!
HERE!


I WANT YOU TO TRY AND CUT THIS RADISH.
OKAY?
UN UNDER-STOOD!!

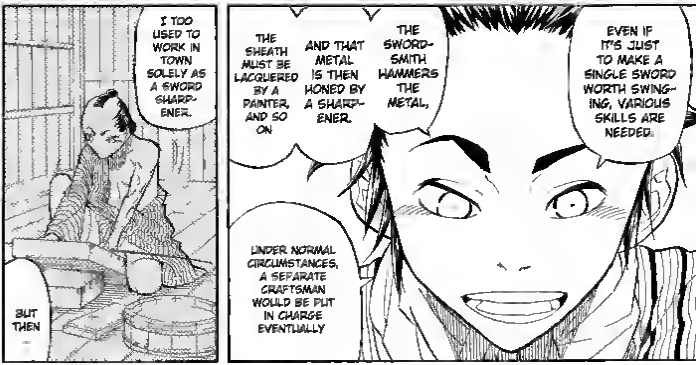
!!?
コ!!

しくしくしく…

IS THIS REALLY ONE OF YOUR KATANA?
OI, OI, KIYO-HIT-TSUAN!
WITHOUT A DOUBT, THAT'S ONE OF MY KATANA
YEAH, OF COURSE IT IS


WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
HUH?
EH? WHA?
COULD IT BE THAT THE FEELINGS IN MY HEART HAVE SUCH A STRONG EFFECT ON MY SWORD?

THE ONES YOU SEE STUCK IN THIS ROOF ARE ALL LIKE THAT.
THEY SERVE AS A PERSONAL REMINDER FOR ME.
IT'S A FAILED PRODUCT I CREATED WHEN I WAS YOUNGER.
THE MOST THAT ONE CAN CUT IS TOFU.


I TOO USED TO WORK IN TOWN SOLELY AS A SWORD SHARPENER.
BUT THEN...
THE SHEATH MUST BE LACQUERED BY A PAINTER, AND SO ON
AND THAT METAL IS THEN HONED BY A SHARPENER.
THE SWORDSMITH HAMMERS THE METAL,
UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, A SEPARATE CRAFTSMAN WOULD BE PUT IN CHARGE EVENTUALLY
EVEN IF IT'S JUST TO MAKE A SINGLE SWORD WORTH SWINGING, VARIOUS SKILLS ARE NEEDED.

TO MAKE "THE WORLD'S GREATEST SWORD"
.....

I CAME TO LEARN ABOUT THOSE SEPARATE JOBS
YES- THAT'S BECAUSE MY REAL DESIRE WAS...

AND HAVING NO PRACTICE WITH PAINTING, I WAS ALWAYS MAKING A MESS OF MY HANDS...
THE HEARTH USED FOR HEATING METAL WOULD ACT UP A LOT AND BURNED TOO HOT IN THE SUMMER-TIME...
IT WAS HARD AT FIRST...
ALL THE KATANA I MADE WERE DULL...
THAT WAS TO BE EXPECTED...
I WORKED HARD...
WITHOUT GAINING KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ALL THOSE DIFFERENT SKILLS...
THERE'S NO WAY I WOULD BE ABLE TO CREATE THE WORLD'S GREATEST SWORD...
IN THE END I MADE PLENTY OF KATANA THAT I WAS FOND OF. BUT...
WHAT CHANGED THOSE INTO TRULY GREAT SWORDS WERE THE SATISFIED FACES...
EVERY

TN: WHEN PEOPLE GO TO PRAY AT SHRINES THEY'LL USUALLY WRITE THEIR PRAYERS DOWN ON A PLAQUE TO BE HUNG UP FOR THE GODS TO SEE

ISN'T IT WHEN YOU POUR EVERY-THING INTO THE TRIAL OF MAKING OTHERS HAPPY
THAT SOMETHING WORTHY OF BEING CALLED "THE WORLD'S BEST" IS BORN?
.....
ガサ...
UWA AAA AAH !!?
I FIN-ALLY...
MANAGED TO DIG ONE UP...
ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME OUR BREAK ENDED?
GOE-SAN.
... HA!

I'M BACK!
OH, COMING HOME NOW?
I'M SURE SHINO ALSO DOES NOT WISH FOR THE USAGI DOJO TO LOSE
"I HAVE TO BECOME STRONGER"...
WHAT I'M THINKING NOW IS NOT
BUT "I WANT TO BECOME STRONGER."
BATH HOUSE
女湯
RIGHT!!
IT'S EXACTLY AS KAZAMA-DONO SAYS
BY BECOMING STRONG, THERE WILL BE NO REGRETS.
THIS IS ALL THE MORE TRUTHFUL IN THE CASE OF A SWORDSMANSHIP DOJO.

HEY, HEY! GET AHOLD OF YOURSELF, BOY!!
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING!?
HAHA... SORRY ABOUT THAT...
THERE'S NO HELPING IT...
IT'S BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH TO GO PAST THE LIMIT, YOU KNOW.
IT'S JUST BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE COME TO A BATH HOUSE LIKE THIS, SO I THOUGHT I'D TAKE MY TIME..
ONLY TO END UP PASSING OUT.
RONIN OOTORI

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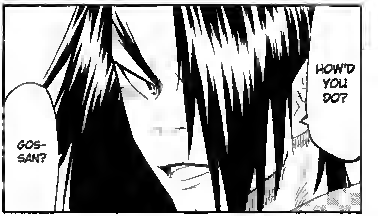
CHAPTER FORTY-SEVEN:
ENLIGHTENMENT

ORYAA AAAAAA AAAA!!!

ドラ!!
ドラ!!

GOOD!
NOT EVEN MY SLEEVES WERE TOUCHED!


HOW'D YOU DO?
GOS-SAN?

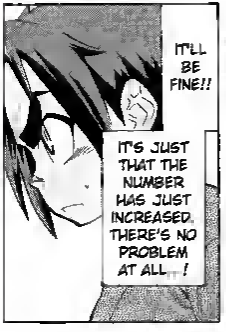
YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT NOW, RIGHT?
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT
WITH THAT LEVEL OF SKILL

DID YOU SEE THAT, KIYOHIT-TSUAN!!!
YEAH!
MUM!
YOU'RE MUCH DIFFERENT FROM YESTERDAY
ドロロ

ARE YOU SERIOUS, KIYOHITO-PONO!?
NNH!? KAZAMA-PONO!
YEAH! LET'S DO THIS, GOSAN!!

I COULD ASK YOU THE SAME THING, UDAGAWA-KUN
DID YOU REALLY THINK THAT SUCH CHILD'S PLAY WOULD MAKE YOU STRONGER?
MAH!!

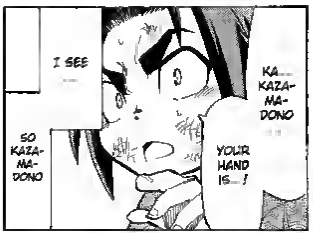
どっちゃ!!!
THE NUMBER OF BAMBOO SHOOTS HAS INCREASED A LITTLE BIT, BUT...WELL, DO YOUR BEST!
WE CAN MOVE ON TO THE NEXT STAGE.

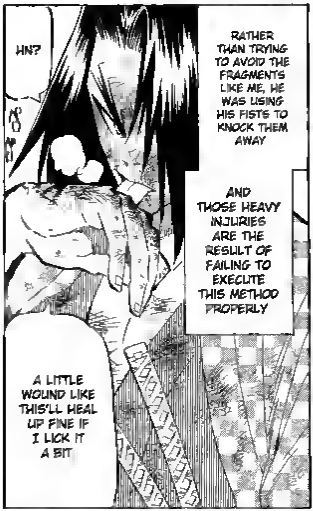

IT'LL BE FINE!!
IT'S JUST THAT THE NUMBER HAS JUST INCREASED. THERE'S NO PROBLEM AT ALL...!

ARE YOU READY!!?
LIGHT THE FIRE, KAZAMA-PONO!!
YOU GOT IT, GOSAN!!

ドドン!!
ドン!!
ドン!!

THERE WERE TOO MANY FRAGMENTS, AND MY EYES COULDN'T FOLLOW THEM.
HEY, GOS-SAN.
NOW THEN, WHAT SHOULD I DO TO...
JUST BY INCREASING THE AMOUNT, THE RESULT CHANGES THIS MUCH...
I'VE BEEN TOO NAIVE.

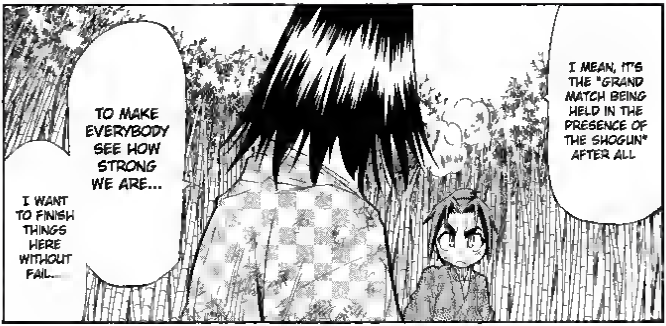

I SEE
KA... KAZAMADONO
SO KAZAMADONO
YOUR HAND IS...!

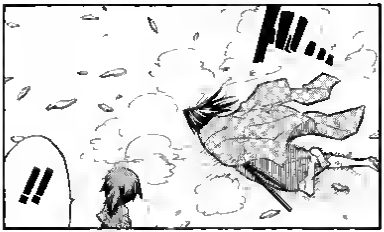

HN?
RATHER THAN TRYING TO AVOID THE FRAGMENTS LIKE ME, HE WAS USING HIS FISTS TO KNOCK THEM AWAY
AND THOSE HEAVY INJURIES ARE THE RESULT OF FAILING TO EXECUTE THIS METHOD PROPERLY
A LITTLE WOUND LIKE THIS'LL HEAL UP FINE IF I LICK IT A BIT

FOR THE NEXT ROUND
IS THIS A GOOD AMOUNT?
!!!

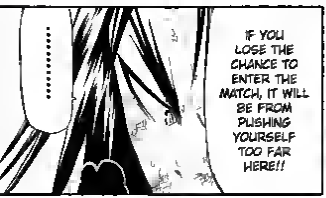
THIS IS A SERIOUSLY BIG EVENT, ISN'T IT...?

PODD
IT WON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE EVEN IF YOU LICK FASTER!!
N-NO, IT'S MUCH WORSE THAN THAT!
YOU HAVE TO REST RIGHT AWAY-


I MEAN, IT'S THE "GRAND MATCH BEING HELD IN THE PRESENCE OF THE SHOGUN" AFTER ALL
TO MAKE EVERYBODY SEE HOW STRONG WE ARE...
I WANT TO FINISH THINGS HERE WITHOUT FAIL...


!!

AND ENTER IN...
THE MATCH...


IF YOU LOSE THE CHANCE TO ENTER THE MATCH, IT WILL BE FROM PUSHING YOURSELF TOO FAR HERE!!

IT'S FINE!
SORRY...
I WASN'T THINKING CLEARLY...
JUST TAKE YOUR TIME AND HAVE A GOOD REST!!

COME ON, YOU SHOULD LIE DOWN ON THE BENCH OVER HERE
WAIT A SEC, GOSSAN...
I CAN STILL...
I WILL NOT WAIT!!

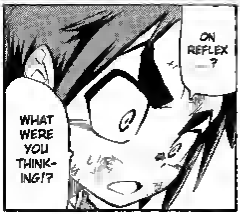
UGH !!!
BUT THIS AMOUNT
IT SEEMS I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FACE IT ALL HEAD-ON
I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO DODGE FROM UP ABOVE, BUT
IT'S THE OPPOSITE- I CAN'T AVOID ANY ONCOMING FRAGMENTS WHILE I'M UP IN THE AIR.
GAH!!
HAA AAA AAA AAA A!!!

WHAT DO I DO...
HOW CAN I...
I DECIDED TO TRY IMITATING KAZAMA-DONO'S METHOD, BUT...
AS I THOUGHT, IT'S NOT POSSIBLE
GUH!!
MAYBE IF I USED THE SURROUND-ING BAMBOO AS A SHIELD... NO
OR DUG A HOLE TO HIDE IN...
NO NO! THAT WON'T HAPPEN NO MATTER HOW MUCH I PRACTICE...
IF I COULD JUST HEAR THE BAMBOO BEFORE THE EXPLO-SION...
IT WILL NEVER WORK UNLESS I CAN SEE ALL OF THE FRAG-MENTS...
WHETHER I CHOOSE TO KNOCK THEM AWAY OR EVADE THEM.

!!
OH N-
ドドド

KA-
KAZA-MA-DONO !!!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO REST!!?
LIKE THIS, YOU REALLY WON'T BE ABLE TO ENTER...
.....

!!
.....
...NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THAT'S TRUE...
YEAH


WHAT WERE YOU THINK-ING!?
ON REFLEX ...?

ON REFLEX ...I GUESS
I JUST THOUGHT "DANGER" AND THEN...

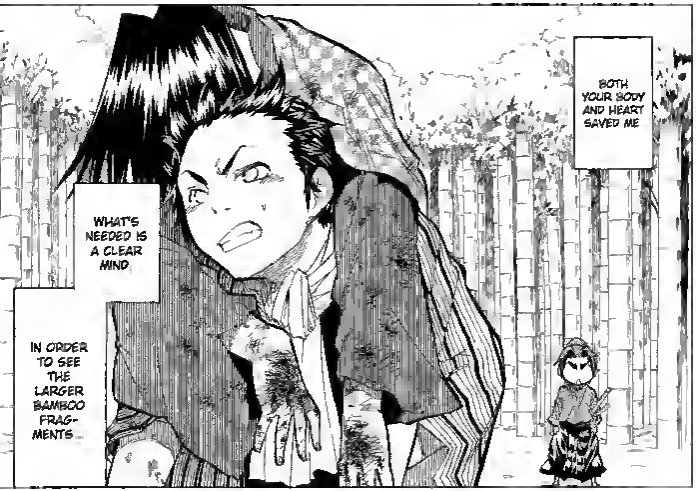
HEY, GOS-SAN.
N...NEVER MIND THAT. WE HAVE TO TREAT YOUR-

.....

"GOS-SAN'S IN DANGER"
LIKE I SAID...

THANK YOU SO MUCH...
KIYO-HITO-DONO !!!
I'M SORRY, BUT...
KAZA-MA-DONO

IF YOU HAVE SO MUCH FREE TIME,
THEN HURRY UP AND GET BACK TO TRAINING
.....


BOTH YOUR BODY AND HEART SAVED ME
WHAT'S NEEDED IS A CLEAR MIND
IN ORDER TO SEE THE LARGER BAMBOO FRAG-MENTS...

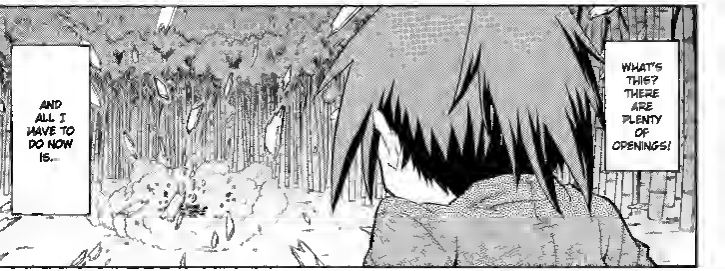
DOR!!!

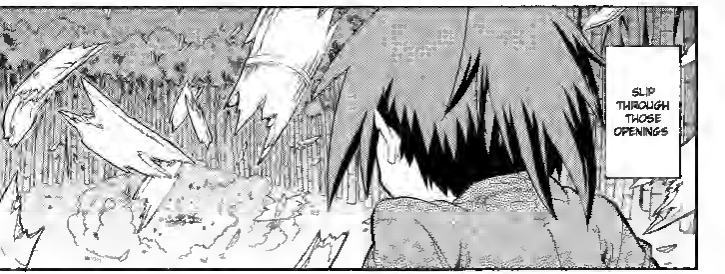
YES...

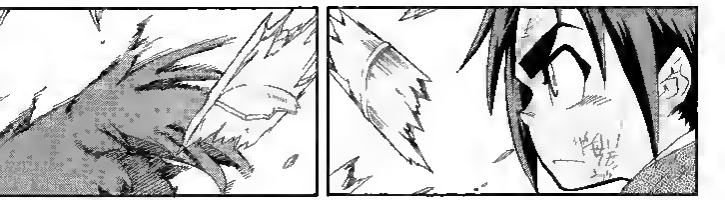
I ONLY HAVE TO FOCUS ON DODGING.
DOWN TO THE SMALLEST PIECES...

AND MOVE EVEN FAS- TER THAN THE BAM- BOO ...
CAN EXP- LODE !!!

I CAN SEE THEM MOVING CLOSER!
I CAN SEE IT!!!

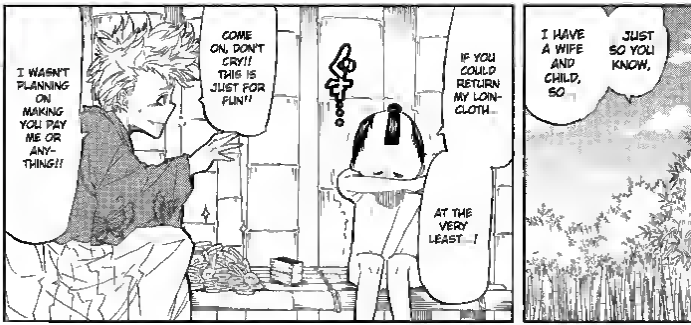

AND ALL I HAVE TO DO NOW IS...
WHAT'S THIS? THERE ARE PLENTY OF OPENINGS!

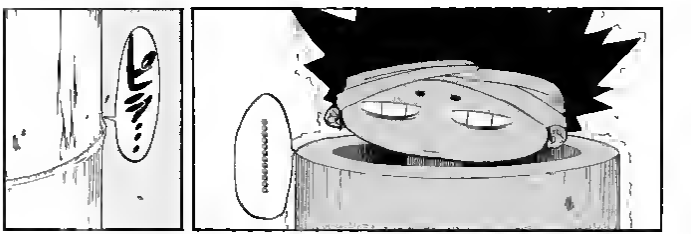

SLIP THROUGH THOSE OPENINGS



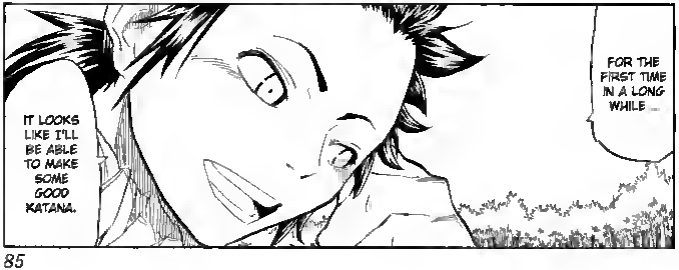
.....
ONE, TWO
THIS ONE LOOKS GOOD!!
OKAY!

THREE !!!!


I HAVE A WIFE AND CHILD, SO
JUST SO YOU KNOW,
IF YOU COULD RETURN MY LOIN-CLOTH...
AT THE VERY LEAST...!
COME ON, DON'T CRY!! THIS IS JUST FOR FUN!!
I WASN'T PLANNING ON MAKING YOU PAY ME OR ANY-THING!!


レン...
.....

KI... KIYO-HITO-SAMA...
YEAH...
パラ...
パラ...


FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG WHILE...
IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE SOME GOOD KATANA.

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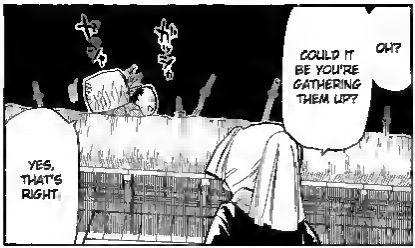
CHAPTER FORTY-EIGHT:
THE SECOND ROUND BEGINS
WELCOME BACK, HONAMI-SAMA!!
I'M BACK, SENJI-SAN.

AAAH, I SEE.
FUFU... HE REALLY NEVER CHANGES, DOES HE? THAT KIYOHITO-SAN.

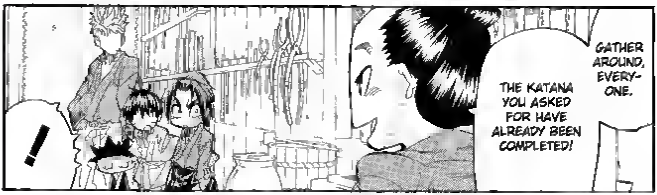

OH?
COULD IT BE YOU'RE GATHERING THEM UP?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.

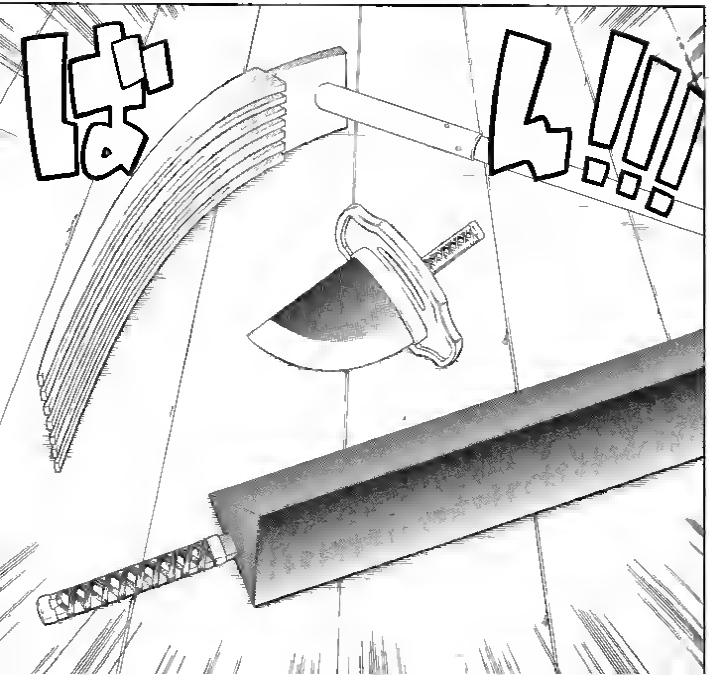
THIS JUST MEANS HE WAS ABLE TO MAKE SOME GOOD KATANA...
OH WELL...

ZZZ

WHAT AN INCREDIBLE NUMBER OF ROUGH DRAFTS...
HE EVEN TOOK THE LENGTH OF OUR FINGERS INTO ACCOUNT, AND HIS MEASUREMENTS ARE ACCURATE...
WHEN DID HE MANAGE TO LEARN SUCH DETAILS ...?

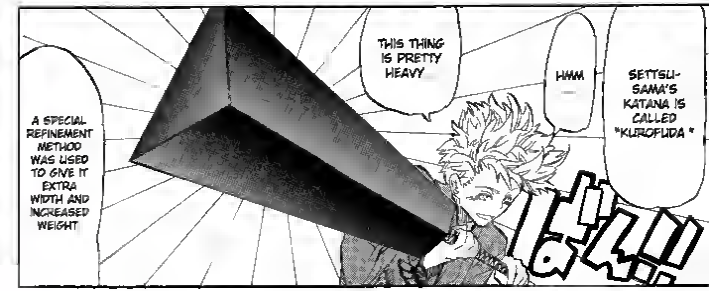
ALL FOR THE SAKE OF CREATING THE WORLD'S...
GREAT-EST SWORD


GATHER AROUND, EVERY-ONE.
THE KATANA YOU ASKED FOR HAVE ALREADY BEEN COMPLETED!
!

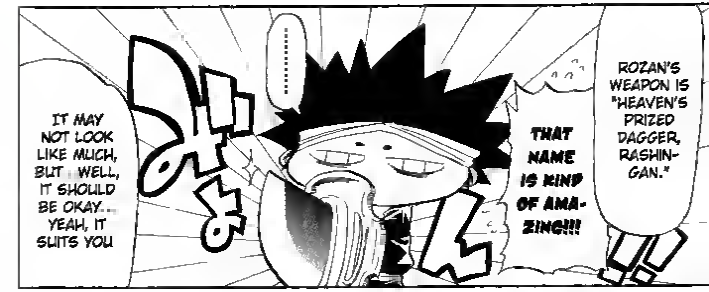

ばん!!!

CHIYOKICHI-KUN'S WEAPON IS A HOE- THE "NANANA HOE" TO BE EXACT.
SUPER COOL!!!
IT'S GOT A BUNCH OF BLADES ATTACHED TO IT!!!
OF COURSE, IT CAN ALSO BE USED AS A REGULAR HOE, SO FEEL FREE TO TILL YOUR FIELDS WITH IT.

TN: 七: KANJI ON THE HOE = SEVEN. ALSO, THE W/W 'NANANA' IS WRITTEN HERE READS 'SEVEN WEEDS' BUT FOR NAMES I PREFER TO USE THE ORIGINAL JAPANESE WHENEVER POSSIBLE.


SETTSU-SAMA'S KATANA IS CALLED "KUROFUDA"
HMM
THIS THING IS PRETTY HEAVY
A SPECIAL REFINEMENT METHOD WAS USED TO GIVE IT EXTRA WIDTH AND INCREASED WEIGHT

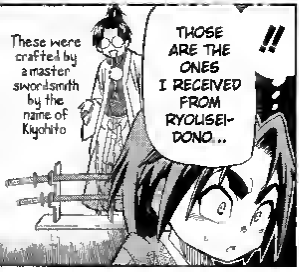
'KUROFUDA' = BLACK CHARM/TALISMAN.


ROZAN'S WEAPON IS "HEAVEN'S PRIZED DAGGER, RASHIN-GAN."
THAT NAME IS KIND OF AMA-ZING!!!
.....
IT MAY NOT LOOK LIKE MUCH, BUT, WELL, IT SHOULD BE OKAY... YEAH, IT SUITS YOU

'RASHINGAN' = THE COMPASS NEEDLE WHICH POINTS TO GOD

I'M SORRY FOR BEING LATE!!
SH... SHOULDN'T THERE BE SOMETHING HERE FOR ME AS-

LIH... LIM, YES, BUT... E...
THAT ISN'T WHAT I WANTED TO ASK...
FOR KAZAMA-SAMA, KIYOHITO-SAMA SAID "SOMETHING LIKE THAT WOULD ONLY GET IN HIS WAY" AND LEFT IT AT THAT...

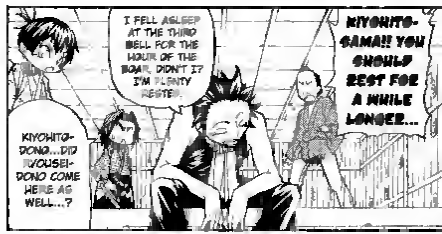

These were crafted by a master swordsmith by the name of Kiyohito
THOSE ARE THE ONES I RECEIVED FROM RYOUSEI-DONO...
!!

THEY'RE "A PAIR OF BLOOD-SMEARED RABBITS"
I SEE... SO IT WAS THIS KIYOHITO-DONO WHO MADE THEM...
HMM... WHAT WERE THEY CALLED AGAIN...
UUUM... A PAIR... A PAIR OF

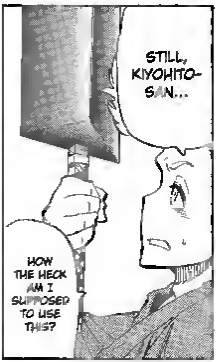
I HOPE YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, UDAGAWA-SAMA...
I WENT TO RETRIEVE THESE FROM YOUR USAGI DOJO!!

SINCE YOU'RE EXACTLY THE KIND OF SAMURAI I'D HEARD YOU WERE.
FOR YOU, UDAGAWA-KUN, THOSE SWORDS ARE THE ONES THAT SUIT YOU BEST.
"ぎゅっ"

'TOGAMI' - VERMILION DASH


I FELL ASLEEP AT THE THIRD BELL FOR THE HOUR OF THE BOAR. DIDN'T IT? I'M PLENTY RESTED!
KIYOHITO-SAMA!! YOU SHOULD REST FOR A WHILE LONGER...
KIYOHITO-DONO...DID RYOUSEI-DONO COME HERE AS WELL...?

T/N: HOUR OF THE BOAR = 9 PM - 11 PM. THE THIRD BELL SIGNALS 11 PM. SEE THE TRANSLATION NOTE INCLUDED AT THE END OF CHAPTER 99 FOR AN EXPLANATION ON TRADITIONAL JAPANESE TIME-TELLING.



YOU'LL UNDERSTAND ONCE YOU FIGHT WITH THEM.
FOR YOU GUYS, THERE ARE NO BETTER WEAPONS THAN THOSE.
I'M NOT TELLING YOU ANY MORE THAN THAT.
.....
Up we go!
NOW THEN
SO EVEN YOU'RE THANKING ME!
I'LL ACCEPT THIS WITH THANKS.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!
BOWS
WE ARE IN YOUR DEBT!!
JUST WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO?
PREPARATIONS?
?
IN THAT CASE, LET'S HEAD OUTSIDE, EVERYONE!
YES! ALL THE KATANA HAVE BEEN COLLECTED!
GONTA! SENJI! ARE THE PREPARATIONS COMPLETE?

I'M MOVING.

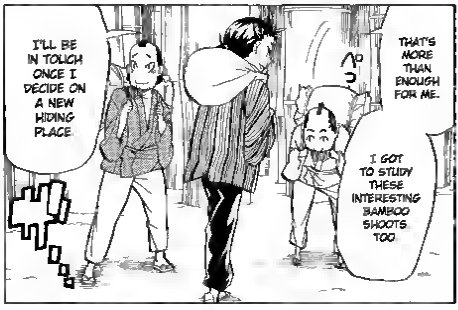
GOOD, IT'S BURNING UP WELL
LEAVING GARBAGE LAYING AROUND IS BAD, AFTER ALL
GAR-BAGE !!?
KIYONITO-PONO!! YOUR WORK TOOLS ARE STILL IN THERE-
FU FU
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, UDAGAWA-KUN.

I'VE ALREADY...
SET MY HEART ON TRAVELLING TO A NEW PLACE, SEEING NEW THINGS, HEARING NEW WORDS AND USING NEW TOOLS.
SO BASICALLY...
THIS IS TO KEEP OTHERS FROM STEALING MY "EXPERIENCE."
I DON'T WANT ANYONE DEBASING MY ACCOMPLISHMENTS.
I WANT TO LEARN MANY THINGS.
I WANT TO USE NEW TOOLS AND TRY NEW TECHNIQUES
I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY MERIT IN SETTLING ON JUST ONE THING.
.....
KIYOHITO-DONO... THIS... "TOGAMI"...
I SHALL USE IT WITH THE UTMOST CARE...
KAHAHA! THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT IT SO MUCH!
I SHOULD THANK YOU GUYS AS WELL.
?
YOU KNOW, IIDA-GAWA-KUN...
WHEN IT COMES TO SAMU-RAI...

I THOUGHT NEARLY EVERYONE WHO WOULD LET ME TAKE AWAY UP TO TWO HUNDRED RYO HAD TO BE GOOD-FOR-NOTHING IDIOTS.
!!!
HA!

BUT THEN I MET YOU AND HONMA RYOUSEI-KUN...
AND I GOT THE FEELING THAT THIS ERA WAS STARTING TO CHANGE SOMEHOW.
ABOVE CREATING KATANA, THIS IS A GREAT FORTUNE.

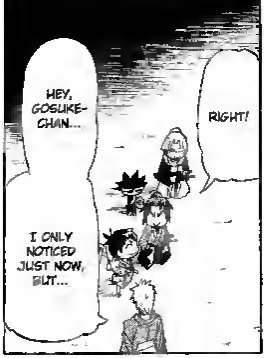
SEE YOU...
OH, AND ONE MORE THING...


I'LL BE IN TOUCH ONCE I DECIDE ON A NEW HIDING PLACE.
THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR ME.
I GOT TO STUDY THESE INTERESTING BAMBOO SHOOTS TOO

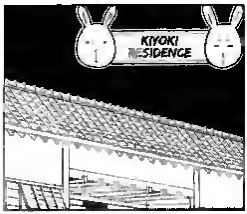
IF YOU LOSE WHILE USING KATANA WITH MY INSCRIPTION ON THEM ..
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU!!!

.....
OF COURSE NOT!!!

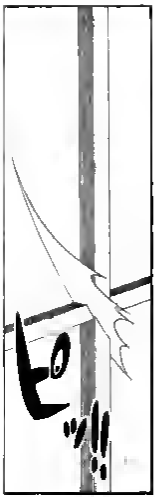
THE MATCH ...
IS FINALLY STARTING TOMORROW ...
THAT'S RIGHT!
BUT I'M SURE IT'LL BE OKAY!!


HEY, GOSUKE-CHAN...
I ONLY NOTICED JUST NOW, BUT...
RIGHT!

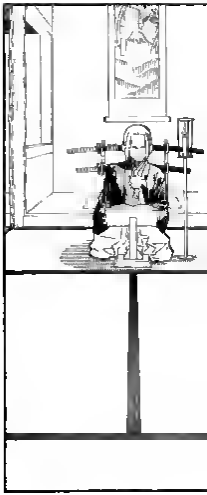
WHETHER IT'S AGAINST THOSE RONIN OR THE KOBIKAN...
THERE'S NO WAY WE'LL LOSE!!


KIYOKI RESIDENCE

COULD IT BE THAT...
HANZOU IS STILL SLEEPING IN THERE?


!!

?.....



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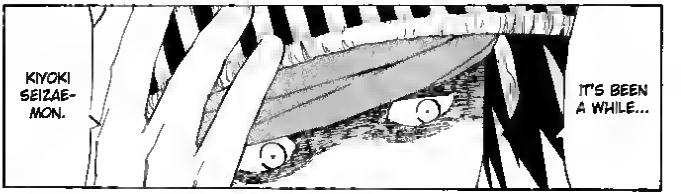

KIYOKI SEIZAE-MON.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE...

WITH THE INTENTION OF LEAVING JUST AS EASILY?
SURELY YOU DIDN'T SNEAK INTO MY MANSION AT THIS HOUR...

SO YOU WERE THE ONES WHO ESCAPED FROM THAT ISLAND
!!
I SEE.

I DIDN'T PLAN ON LEAVING JUST LIKE THAT.
OF COURSE NOT
THIS LEVEL OF SKILL.. IT'S PITIFUL.
DID YOU PLAN ON KILLING ME LIKE THIS?
THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW
THERE'S NO MEANING IN KILLING YOU UNDER THE COVER OF DARKNESS

WE'RE GOING TO CRUSH YOU HEAD-ON.
I CAME HERE TO TELL YOU THAT.
REME-MBER THIS.
WE'LL BE MEETING FACE-TO-FACE ONCE MORE VERY SOON.
……
!!

SELECTED GROUNDS FOR THE GRAND SECOND ROUND:
INNER YARD OF THE WANIBUCHI MANSION
ワイ
ザワ
ワイ
ザワ

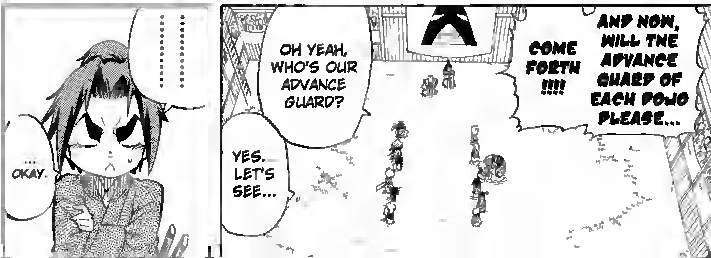
AND HERE THEY ARE!!
IT'S THE USAGI DOJO !!!!

WILL KAZAMA-SAMA BE ALRIGHT?
I THINK SO... IT SEEMED LIKE HE WASN'T ABLE TO MOVE, SO...
HE'S SLEEPING AT MY HOUSE RIGHT NOW.
WHAT HAVE YOU GOT THERE, SHINO?
IT'S A MEDICINE CHEST!

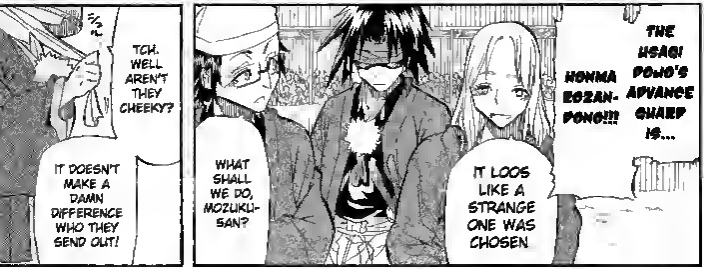
OH? SO THEY'RE OUR OPPONENTS, HUH...
.....

THE SECOND ROUND OF THIS GRAND MATCH, IN THE FORM OF A SWORDS MANSHIP DUAL...
IS ABOUT TO BEGIN!!!

IT WILL A FIVE-ON-FIVE MATCH, AND THE FIRST DOJO TO EARN THREE WINS WILL BE THE VICTOR!!!
A WIN WILL BE DECIDED WHEN ONE OF THE COMPETING SWORDSMEN ADMITS DEFEAT OR LOSES CONSCIOUSNESS!!
SHOULD AN OPPONENT'S INJURIES RESULT IN DEATH, THIS WILL ALSO BE COUNTED AS THEIR DEFEAT!!! UNDERSTOOD!?


AND NOW, WILL THE ADVANCE GUARD OF EACH DOJO PLEASE...
COME FORTH !!!!
OH YEAH, WHO'S OUR ADVANCE GUARD?
YES. LET'S SEE...
.....
.....
.....
.... OKAY.

MARO!!
I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU!!!
NOD!!


THE HEAD! POJO'S ADVANCE GUARD IS...
HONMA EOZAN-PONG!!!
IT LOOS LIKE A STRANGE ONE WAS CHOSEN
WHAT SHALL WE DO, MOZUKU-SAN?
TCH. WELL AREN'T THEY CHEEKY?
IT DOESN'T MAKE A DAMN DIFFERENCE WHO THEY SEND OUT!

I'LL GO!
YOU GUYS CAN JUST FOLLOW MY LEAD!

TRANSLATION NOTES:

RYOUSEI REFERENCES KIYOHITO

WE SEE ON PAGE 8 OF THIS CHAPTER THAT THE SWORDS GIVEN TO GOSUKE IN EXCHANGE FOR COMPLETING KIYOHITO'S SPECIAL TRAINING ARE ACTUALLY THE ONES HE RECEIVED FROM RYOUSEI BACK IN CHAPTER 22 AT THE END OF MARO'S BACKSTORY ARC. AT THIS POINT, GOSUKE THINKS BACK TO WHEN THIS HAPPENED AND REMEMBERS RYOUSEI SAYING THAT THE SWORDS WERE MADE BY A MASTER SWORDSMITH BY THE NAME OF KIYOHITO. GOSUKE THEN REALIZES THAT THE MAN RYOUSEI MENTIONED AND THIS KIYOHITO ARE ONE AND THE SAME.

BACK WHEN I WAS TRANSLATING CHAPTER 22, I SIMPLY READ THE KANJI FOR KIYOHITO'S NAME AS MEANING 'GREAT/HIGH-STANDING PERSON', AND THOUGHT RYOUSEI WAS DESCRIBING A SWORDSMITH OF GREAT TALENT RATHER THAN STATING A PERSON'S NAME. BUT NOW YOU KNOW, RYOUSEI HAD INDEED MENTIONED KIYOHITO BY NAME BACK THEN, WHICH PROVED TO BE ONE HECK OF A CHEKHOV'S GUN GIVEN THAT WE REALLY GOT TO MEET THE GUY. I'M SO SORRY THAT YOU READERS MISSED OUT ON THIS MOMENT OF FORESHADOWING BECAUSE OF MY INEXPERIENCE AS A TRANSLATOR!! I'LL BE SURE TO EDIT CHAPTER 22 TO MATCH THE NEW TRANSLATION AND WILL RELUPLOAD THE REVISED CHAPTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

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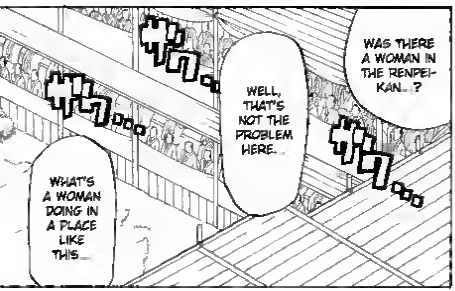
CHAPTER FORTY-NINE: SUZUME VS MARO



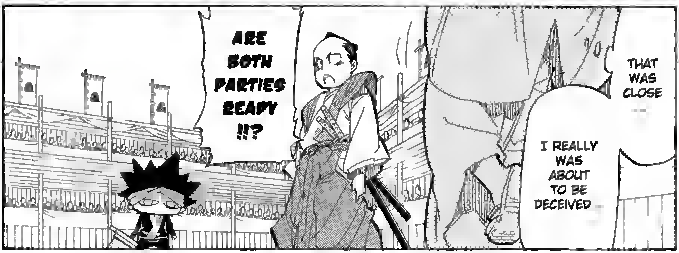
GET OUT OF HERE, YOU!!!
THIS IS NO PLACE FOR A WOMAN!!!
HOW COULD YOU COMPREHEND THE GREATNESS OF A MATCH HELP IN THE PRESENCE OF THE SHOGUN!!?
!!
SEE? I TOLD YOU SO...
THIS DOESN'T LOOK GOOD...
WE'VE MISREAD YOU, KENPEIKAN!!!!
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING!?
SURELY YOU WOULDN'T LET A WOMAN TAKE HOLD OF A SWORD!!?
.....
SOME KIND OF FISH DEALER !!?
AND WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY FROM THE USAGI DOJO!!?
HE SURE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A SAMURAI TO ME!!!
GO HOME !!!
I CAN'T SAY HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ONE...
A FISH DEALER, HUH...
Yeah!!!
The woman and the fish dealer can both go home!!
.....

SETTLE DOWN, PLEASE.
ピキ..!!
!!!
IF YOU INSIST ON MAKING A FUSS, THEN...

TELL ME WHY IT'S WRONG FOR WOMEN AND FISH DEALERS TO SWING A SWORD.
IF THE EXPLANTATION IS REASONABLE THEN I'LL CANCEL THE MATCH
MARO'S NOT A FISH DEALER, THOUGH.

.....
LET'S GET THINGS STARTED, THEN.
IT LOOKS LIKE NO ONE HAS ANY-THING TO SAY.
IF YOU PUT IT LIKE THAT...
UGH ...
Y... YES SIR!
AIN'T HE A GOOD GUY?
HEY! HEY!
SUZU-ME.
.....

I- I'M NOT! I JUST FELT LIKE SAYING IT!!
WHAT KIND OF IDIOT DO YOU TAKE ME FOR!?
THEY PRETEND TO UNDERSTAND PEOPLE LIKE US WHEN IT SUITS THEM AND THEN ABANDON US.
DON'T LET THEM DECEIVE YOU.
THAT'S WHAT A SAMURAI IS..


ARE BOTH PARTIES READY !!?
I REALLY WAS ABOUT TO BE DECEIVED
THAT WAS CLOSE

VERY WELL
THIS SWORDS-MANSHIP DUAL WILL NOW

BEGIN!!!
WELL, WELL. WHAT'S THIS!!?
YOU'RE PRETTY NIMBLE FOR A FISH DEALER!!!
Do your best, maro-maro !!!
EVERYONE'S MISTAKING HIM FOR A FISH DEALER NOW..
YES... WELL...
THERE ISN'T REALLY A NEED TO CORRECT THEM, IS THERE?
THIS IS A SERIOUS MATCH, BUT...
SINCE YOU'RE NOT A SAMURAI I'LL TRY TO SPARE YOU YOUR LIFE!!!

!!?
WHAT WAS THAT !!?
WAS HE TAUGHT BY AN EEL!!?
!
ELDER BROTHER'S "SERPENT TAIL"
SO IT'S APPEARED ALREADY

Please don't describe it as "swoosh-ing"!!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, UDAGAWA-DONO!!
YOU'RE HERE AS WELL, RYOUSEI-DONO!?
THAT MOVE IS ONE OF THE SECRET INESCAPABLE KILLING TECHNIQUES OF THE HONMA FAMILY!!!
TO THINK THAT SWOOSHING ACTION HAD A GRAND NAME LIKE THAT....

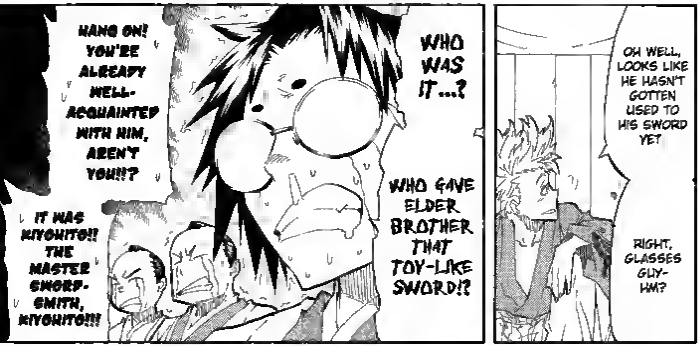
SPINNNN
These lines.
WAVE WAVE
UH... HEH...
D'YOU MEAN THOSE SPINNING AND WAVING MOVE-MENTS?

ALL WE HAS TO DO NOW IS BRING OUT THE SECRET TECHNIQUES USED DURING OUR FIGHT AGAINST THE YAMANEKO DOJO AND IT WILL BE ALL OVER!!!
FROM WHAT I CAN TELL, ELDER BROTHER LOOKS TO BE DOING QUITE WELL!!
THE YAMA-NEKO DOJO ....?

THE INESCAPABLE HONMA STYLE SWORDSMANSHIP TECHNIQUES USE A VARIETY OF ROTATION METHODS THAT HAVE BEEN REFINED FOR THE SAKE OF MOWING DOWN LARGE ENEMIES ON THE BATTLE-FIELD
IF YOU INSIST ON DESCRIBING THEM IN SUCH AN INSULTING MANNER ANY LONGER THEN YOU'LL BE MAKING AN ENEMY OF THE HONMA FAMILY ITSELF
O-OH, SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS!!!
WHA... WHAT A RICH AND HONOR-ABLE LINEAGE!!!

HERE IT COMES, HPA-GAHA-HONOR!!
ELDER BRO-THER'S ...
HOW-EVER ...
IF THAT IS THE CASE, THEN...
IF RYOUSEI-SAMA SAYS IT'S GOING WELL THEN I GUESS WE CAN REST EASY FOR NOW, HUH!!!
YES ...

SECRET INES-CAPABLE HONMA STYLE KILLING TECHNI-QUE ...
WHOOP!!
WHIRL-WIND...
SEC-RET ...
SECRET TECH-NIQUE, "GREAT ...
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT!!
THAT IS ONE ODD FISH DEALER!!
IT'S JUST LIKE I THOUGHT
HE ISN'T USED TO THE LENGTH OF HIS NEW SWORD...
This much is gone!!!


HANG ON! YOU'RE ALREADY WELL-ACQUAINTED WITH HIM, AREN'T YOU!!?
IT WAS KIYOHITO!! THE MASTER SWORD-SMITH, KIYOHITO!!!
WHO WAS IT...?
WHO GAVE ELDER BROTHER THAT TOY-LIKE SWORD!?
OH WELL, LOOKS LIKE HE HASN'T GOTTEN USED TO HIS SWORD YET
RIGHT, GLASSES GUY-HM?

WHY DON'T YOU TRY BLOCKING THIS!!?
MY ONE-HIT KNOCK-OUT!!!
Lo...
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT IT IF IT CAN'T REACH ME
NOW IT'S MY TURN!

BREAK THEIR KATANA!!!
JUST BECAUSE I'M A WOMAN!!!
AFTER THAT, ALL I'LL NEED TO DO IS...
IT'S JUST LIKE TSURUYA SAID!!
IF I CHALLENGE THEM BY SAYING SOMETHING LIKE "TRY TO BLOCK THIS", THEY'LL GO ALONG WITH IT...!

DON'T FUCK WITH ME, DAMN YOU!!!
THERE ISN'T A SINGLE KATANA...
THAT MY CHAINED SWORDS CAN'T BREAK!!!!
TCH ...
EH!?

SHIT...!
EVEN THE HILT IS SUPER HARD...
WAY TO GO, MARO!!
YEAH! THINGS ARE LOOKING UP NOW!!
OKAY, EVERYONE!!!
LET'S GIVE ELDER BROTHER SOME MORALE SUPPORT!
YES SIR!!!!
NOW IS THE TIME TO SECURE YOUR VICTORY, ELDER BROTHER!!
GYAGYAGYA
GYAGYAGYA
PLEASE SETTLE THIS!!!
BOTH THE HOJO AND THE NAME OF SHINANO DOMAIN'S RULING HONMA FAMILY ARE AT STAKE!!!

Nod
HEY, FISH DEALER...
IS HE TALKING ABOUT YOU?
SHINANO DOMAIN?
THE HONMA FAMILY?
IS THAT SO...
YOU SHINJI-KAI...
ARE REALLY SOMETHING ELSE...

RIGHT!? JUST BY PLAYING DUMB...
YOU MANAGED TO DECEIVE ME SO EASILY!!!

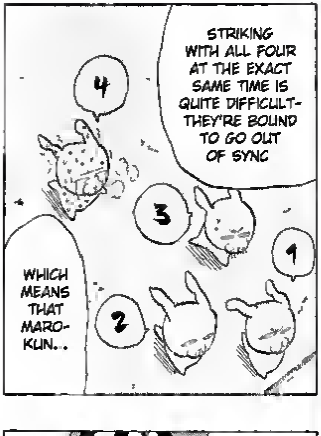
IT'S NOT LIKE HE WAS TRYING TO DECEIVE HER!!!
SO SHE HAD TWO MORE...
ON HER BACK...!

I CAN SYMPATHIZE WITH HER IN THIS CASE, THOUGH.
SHE'S QUICK TO SNAP.

DON'T THINK THIS'LL BE THE SAME AS BEFORE!
MAKING A FOOL OUT OF ME.
A FAKE FISH DEALER LIKE YOU..

TO THINK I WAS EVER GOING TO...
IT'S DECIDED.
SPARE YOUR LIFE!!!

!
COME ON!!!!!
EVEN IF MAZO IS SMALL... IS HIS OPPONENT REALLY A WOMAN!!?
T... THAT STRENGTH IS...


STRIKING WITH ALL FOUR AT THE EXACT SAME TIME IS QUITE DIFFICULT- THEY'RE BOUND TO GO OUT OF SYNC
4
3
1
2
WHICH MEANS THAT MARO-KUN..

THAT MIGHT IS PARTIALLY DUE TO BEING CONNECTED BY CHAINS BUT...
BUNDLING FOUR BROADSWORDS TOGETHER LIKE THAT ALSO SERVES A PURPOSE.

IS ACTUALLY TAKING FOUR CONSECUTIVE HITS IN A SINGLE INSTANT
.....

BUT...
LOOK

MARO-MARO
IT'LL BE OKAY!! IT'S MARO!!
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM LOSE EVEN ONCE!!!

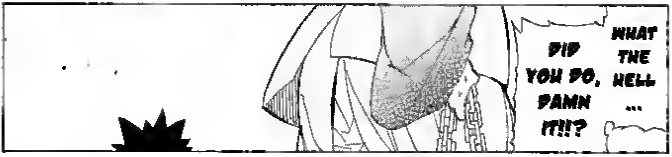
HA
...
HA
...

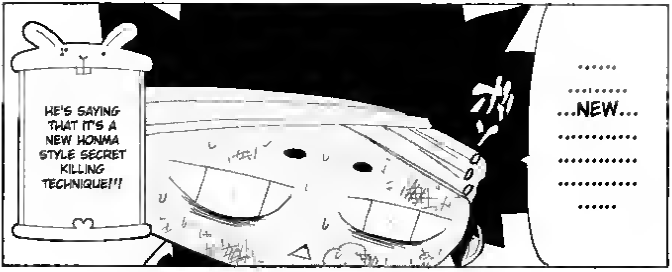
IT...IT'LL BE FINE, RIGHT? GLASSES GUY...

DOES THE SWORD KIYOHITO-DONO GAVE HIM.
HAVE SOME KIND OF SPECIAL PURPOSE AS WELL ?

.....

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER...
SEEN ELDER BROTHER
LOOK LIKE THAT
BEFORE THAT KATANA FINALLY POES BREAK...
I'M GONNA BREAK YOU IN-STEAP!!!
IF THAT WAS A SHABBY KATANA THEN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SMASHED TO BITS LONG AGO...
IF YOU'D JUST SAY "I LOSE" HONESTLY THEN YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE TO DIE...
OH WELL, YOU CAN BE SURE...


WHAT THE HELL ...
DID YOU DO, DAMN IT!!?


.....
.....
...NEW...
.....
.....
.....
.....
HE'S SAYING THAT IT'S A NEW HONMA STYLE SECRET KILLING TECHNIQUE!!!

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qrrbrbirlbel@hotmail.com

CHAPTER FIFTY: MARO ROARS!!

THEN AS PROMISED, I'LL GET STARTED ON MAKING YOU A NEW KATANA
GREAT JOB!!
ドリーン!!!
!!?
SOME KIND OF KATANA THAT WILL MATCH YOUR FIGHTING STYLE...

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS...!
DAIMA... IT...
.....
RYOU-SEI-DONO!
RYOU-SEI-DONO!
IT'S AN ENTIRELY NEW MOVE THAT'S NEVER APPEARED IN THE HONMA FAMILY'S HISTORY
!!!
...I'M JUST AS SURPRISED AS YOU ARE
O-OH, YES! WHAT IS IT?
RYOU-SEI-DONO!!!
WHAT MARO JUST DID WHICH MOVE IS THAT...?
TAKE THIS !!!
IF I WERE TO NAME IT...
YES...
DON'T YOU DARE MAKE FUN OF ME!!!
SMASHING KATANA IS MY SPECIALITY !!!!

THE "SPIRAL CHAIN" !!!!
NEW SECRET TECHNIQUE OF THE INESCAPABLE HONMA FAMILY SWORDSMASHIP STYLE
ヒュ!!
GUH ...

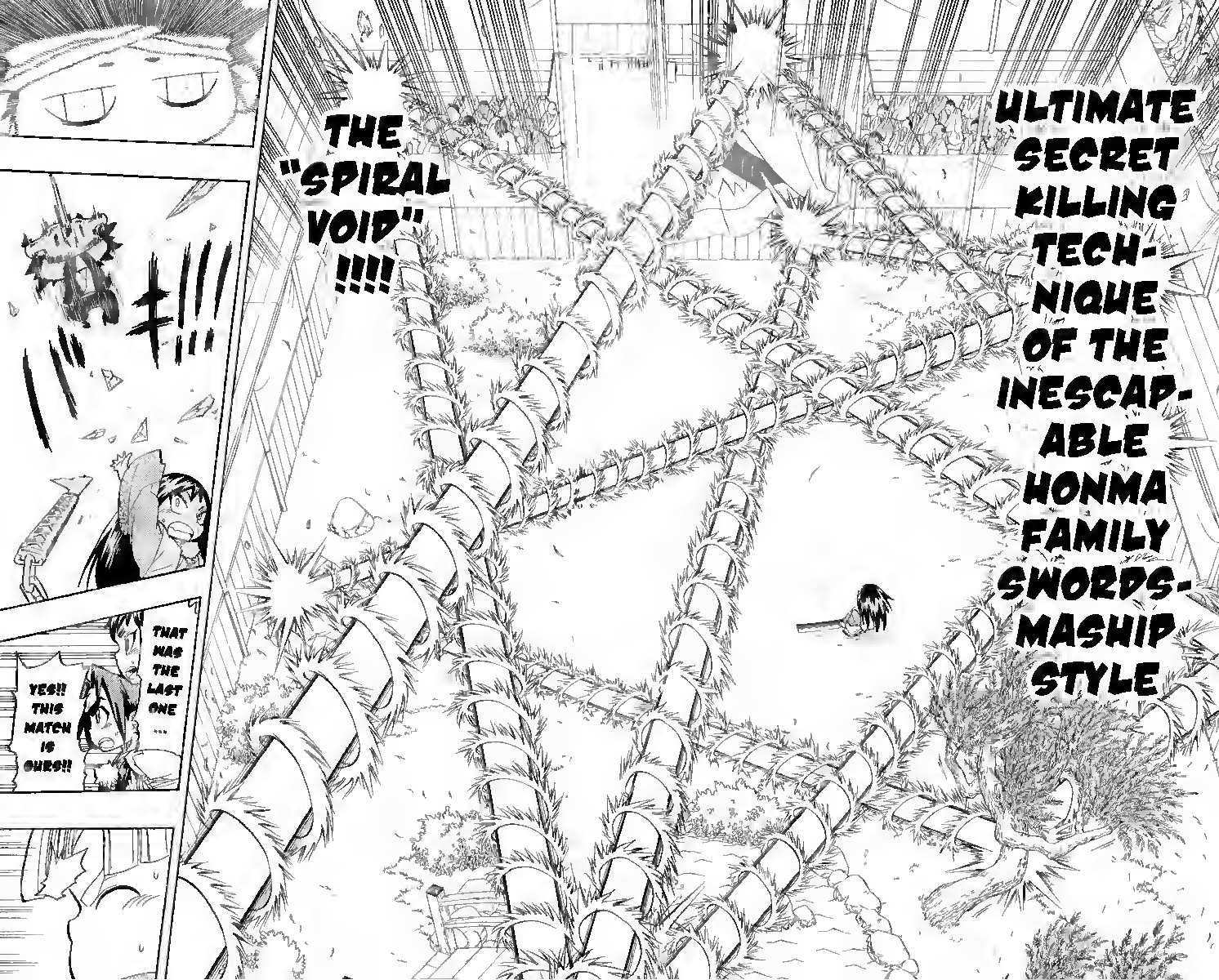
HE DID IT!!!
THAT'S TWO DOWN!
STILL, MARO SURE IS GREAT...
TO CARVE SOMETHING NEW INTO THE HISTORY OF HONMA STYLE SWORDSMANSHIP...
NOT AT ALL THIS IS SURELY...
THANKS TO THE KATANA MADE BY KIYOHITO-DONO
IF YOU INCREASE THE FORCE OF A STRAIGHT OBJECT THROUGH ROTATION,
A NORMAL KATANA WOULD BE TOO LONG, AS THE EXTRA PRESSURE WOULD CAUSE IT TO BREAK
Crack!
Totally fine
ON TOP OF THAT,
WHY YOU ...

THANKS TO ELDER BROTHER'S SMALL BODY...
THE LARGE HILT ACTS AS A SHIELD WHICH PROTECTS HIS FRONT ENTIRELY.
.....
HE MOVES SO FAST THAT IT'S TAKING ALL I HAVE JUST TO DODGE
I'LL BE DEAD IF HE STRIKES ME FROM THE SIDE
KIYO-HITO-DONO'S KATA-NA...
AND MARO'S STREN-GTH.
SO THIS IS THE RESULT OF SUCH A COMBINATION.
ALRIGHT, THEN...
YOU MEAN YOU WEREN'T TALKING ABOUT KIYOHITO JUST NOW!!?
HE REALLY IS A GENIUS.
MY ELDER BROTHER.
Yup.
Yup.

.....
LET'S END THIS IN THE NEXT STRIKE.
COME ON.
HEH, IT'S NO USE!!
SHUT UP, YOU LITTLE BRAT!!
I HAVEN'T LOST YET!!
ALL YOUR ATTACKS WILL JUST BOUNCE OFF THE HILT!!
NOT TO A SAMURAI WHO'S ONLY TALENT...

IS TO ARRO-GANTLY RULE OVER OTHERS !!!!!
OH NO !!!
!!!
HE WAS SENT FLY-ING!!
WHAT A PITY!!
I'LL PUT AN END TO THIS THE SECOND YOU COME FALLING DOWN HERE!!!
ドカ!!

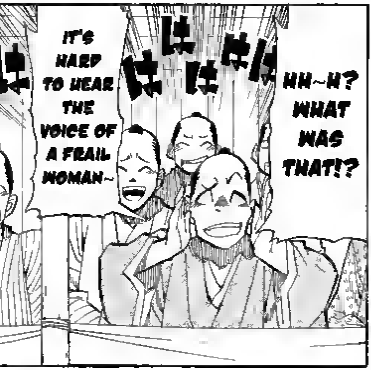
ギャるーん!!
!!?
Ping!!
HE CHANGED HIS DIRECTION IN MID-AIR...
JUST BY ROTATING HIS BODY.
HM... WITH THIS.
YES.
THAT GIRL.
HAS NO OPTIONS LEFT.
ばっ...!!
だん!!

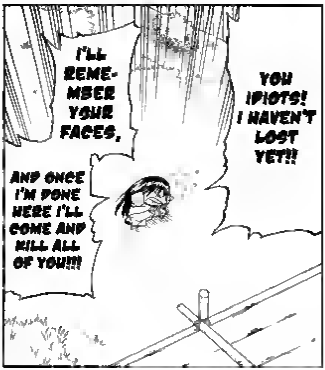

THE "SPIRAL VOID" !!!!
ULTIMATE SECRET KILLING TECHNIQUE OF THE INESCAPABLE HONMA FAMILY SWORDSMASHIP STYLE
THAT WAS THE LAST ONE ...
YES!! THIS MATCH IS OURS!!

UOO OOO OOO OOO OH!!
DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME!!!
I STILL HAVEN'T SAID "I LOSE" YET!!
USE-ING A SHARD OF HER SWORD ...
HMPH !!!
WHAT PERSIS-TENCE...
URG!!

HOW ABOUT YOU TRY BEING HONEST WITH YOURSELF AND JUST ACCEPT DEFEAT!!?
YOU DON'T KNOW WHEN TO GIVE UP, WOMAN!!
!!

I KNOW THIS IS GETTING HARD TO WATCH...
WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT?

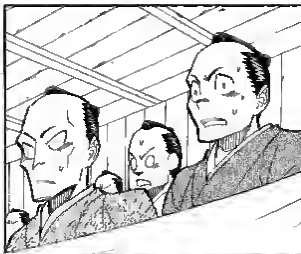

IT'S HARD TO HEAR THE VOICE OF A FRAIL WOMAN~
HH~H? WHAT WAS THAT!?


I'LL REMEMBER YOUR FACES,
AND ONCE I'M DONE HERE I'LL COME AND KILL ALL OF YOU!!!
YOU IDIOTS! I HAVEN'T LOST YET!!

THE IDEA OF YOU BESTING A SAMURAI IN SWORD-SMASHIP IS LAUGH-ABLE!!
YOU'RE DIRTYING THIS MATCH!!
THAT IS ALL YOU ARE, IN THE END!!

EVEN IF SHE IS A WOMAN, SOMEONE THAT'S FIGHTING WITH ALL THEIR MIGHT IS NOTHING TO LAUGH AT!!!
JUST SHUT UP, ALL OF YOU !!!!

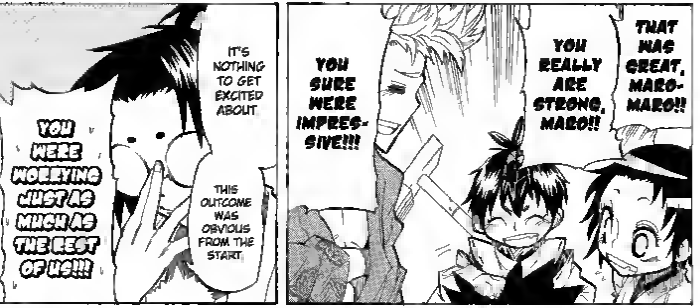
NO WAY ...
MARO JUST ...

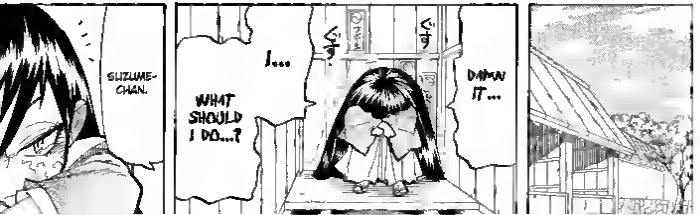

WHAT ON EARTH ...

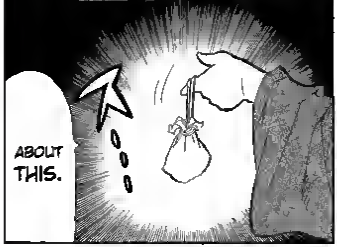
……
ひっ…
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, SUZUME-CCHI!?
SU-ZU-ME-SAN !!!

GOD DAMN IT...!
DAMN IT...WHAT THE HELL IS WITH HIM...
THIS ROUND
WANI-BUCHI-SAMA
YES, YES.
OOTORI
DEAL WITH SUZUME
GIVEN THAT THE RENPEI-KAN HAS CHOSEN TO RESIGN
ER, SO..

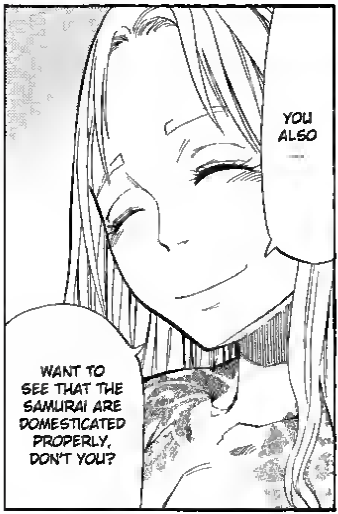
HONMA ROZAN-DONO OF THE HSAGI DOJO
IS THE WINNER OF THIS ROUND!!!
YOU DID IT!!!


THAT WAS GREAT, MARO-MARO!!
YOU REALLY ARE STRONG, MARO!!
YOU SURE WERE IMPRESS-IVE!!!
IT'S NOTHING TO GET EXCITED ABOUT.
THIS OUTCOME WAS OBVIOUS FROM THE START.
YOU WERE WORRYING JUST AS MUCH AS THE REST OF US!!!

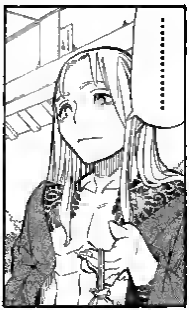

DAMN IT...
I...
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
SUZUME-CHAN.

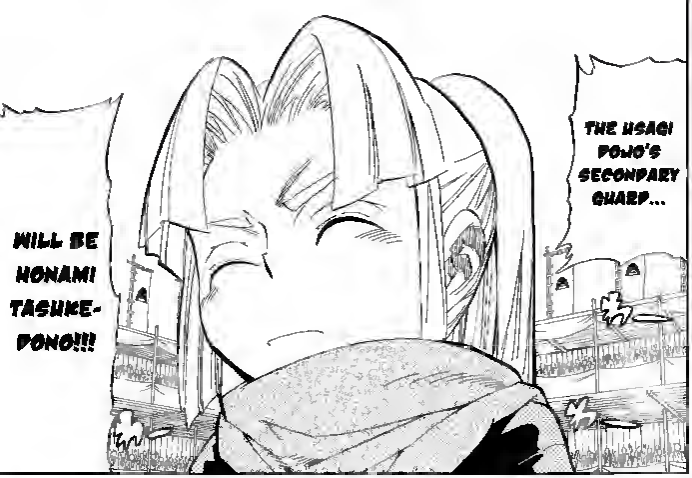

ABOUT THIS.

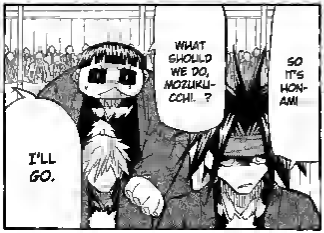
OOTORI.
MOZUKU TOLD YOU AT THE VERY START TO NOT BE FOOLED BY THEM, DIDN'T HE?
OR DID YOU FORGET?


YOU ALSO
WANT TO SEE THAT THE SAMURAI ARE DOMESTICATED PROPERLY, DON'T YOU?

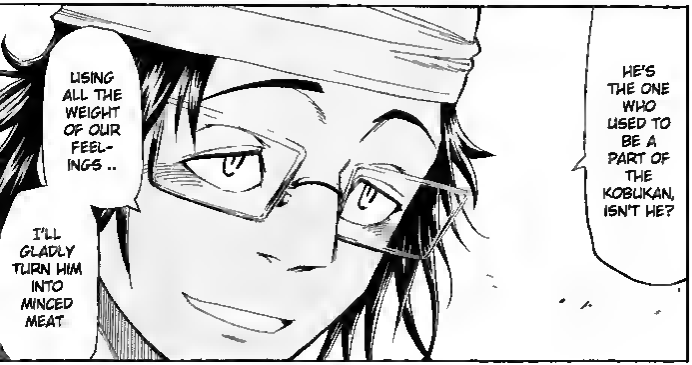
THE SECOND ROUND IS STARTING.
WELL, NEVER-MIND THAT LET'S GO BACK.
OKAY




THE USAGI YOJO'S SECONDARY GUARD...
WILL BE HONAMI TASUKE-DONO!!!


SO IT'S HONAMI
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, MOZUKU-CCHI. ?
I'LL GO.

SO THE SECONDARY GUARD IS TASUKE-CHAN
YES IT WAS A PERSONAL REQUEST OF HIS, SO


HE'S THE ONE WHO USED TO BE A PART OF THE KOBUKAN, ISN'T HE?
USING ALL THE WEIGHT OF OUR FEEL-INGS ..
I'LL GLADLY TURN HIM INTO MINCED MEAT

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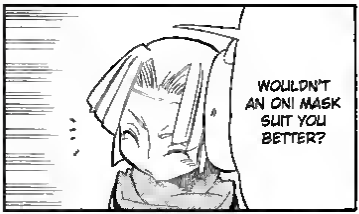
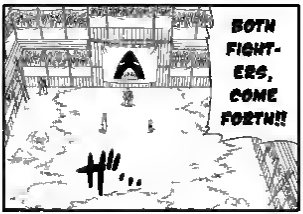
CHAPTER FIFTY-ONE:
PARENT AND CHILD AND FISH STICKS
HERE, HONAMIN!!
THIS IS FOR YOU!!

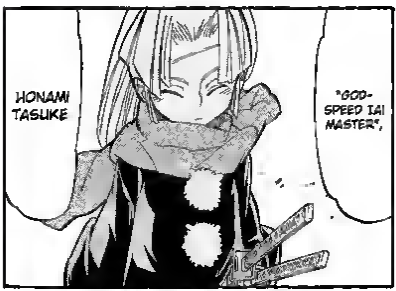
FU FU...
THANK YOU
I'M GIVING ONE TO EVERY MEMBER OF THE USAGI DOJO!!
EHE HE!!
We brought ours!!!
.. A MASK?

BUT EVEN SO...
I DOUBT THEY'LL LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY...
WE'LL BE CHEERING FOR YOU!!!
YEAH!
I'M NOT SURE IF YOUR CONNECTION TO THE KOBUKAN BACK THEN IS A GOOD THING OR NOT RIGHT NOW, BUT DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU, TASUKE-CHAN.



T/N: THE ONI IS A CLASSIC DEMON FROM JAPANESE FOLKLORE





T/N: 'IAI' IS THE JAPANESE SWORD ART OF DRAWING ONE'S BLADE AND STRIKING THE OPPONENT IN A SINGLE INSTANCE

HONAMI-SAMA HAS A PRETTY COOL NICK-NAME!
I want one too!!
YES... I HAD NO IDEA...
HOW ABOUT "THE ONE WHO'S ONLY FRIENDS ARE NANA HERBS"?
...ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ME...?
CALM DOWN, CHIYO-KICHI!!!
I ONLY JOINED FOR A SHORT WHILE BECAUSE IT WAS RECOMMENDED TO ME BY MY FATHER
I'M NO LONGER INVOLVED WITH THAT PLACE
I SEE
IN THAT CASE, THE REAL PIECE OF TRASH WOULD BE YOUR FATHER
.....
NANA HERBS ARE NOT MY ONLY FRIENDS!!!!
I also have Hana!!
HNHO OOOO AAAA AA!!!
THIS DUAL WILL NOW ...
BE-GIN !!!

ババババッ!!
SFX: BA BA BA!! - RAPID MOVEMENTS
AAA—

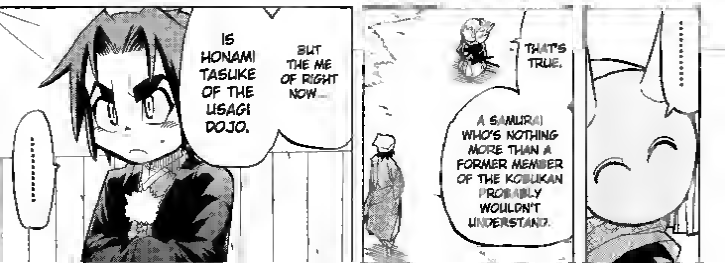
SFX: KIN!! - HILT HITTING THE SHEATH
SFX: BA BA BA BA - RAPID MOVEMENTS
SFX: POTA POTA - DRIPPING
HERE TOO!?
JUST WHAT YOU'D EXPECT FROM "GOD-SPEED"
LANDING SO MANY HITS IN A SINGLE INSTANCE...
WELL THEN...
I'LL ALSO HAVE YOU...

AND YET...
HE SHOULD ALREADY KNOW THAT READING AN OPPONENT'S MOVEMENTS IS ONE OF MY STRONG POINTS...
FEEL MY ATTACKS AS WELL!!
SFX: BYUU!! - RUSH
HIS OPPONENT ISN'T HITTING HIM AT ALL...
...YES, IT'S ODD...
THE WAY HE'S RUSHING AT HONAMI-DONO IS VERY EXCESSIVE.
THIS MAN... JUST WHAT IS HE...?
HE ISN'T SHOWING ANY SIGNS OF BACKING DOWN, EVEN AFTER RECEIVING SO MANY INJURIES.
SFX: ZAA!! - QUICK, DEADLY MOVEMENT

HOW AMAZING
COULD IT BE YOU'RE INVINCIBLE?
I WAS UNABLE TO STRIKE YOU WITH MY SWORD EVEN ONCE.
むくっ!!
AS EXPECTED FROM A MASTER OF OBSERVATION.

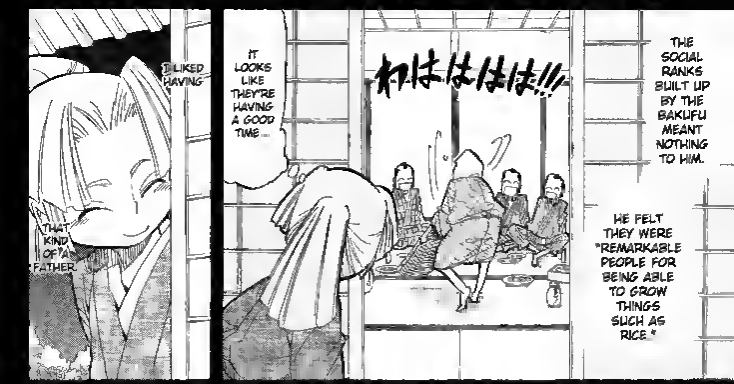
TEXT MUSHI!! - WITHOUT CARE

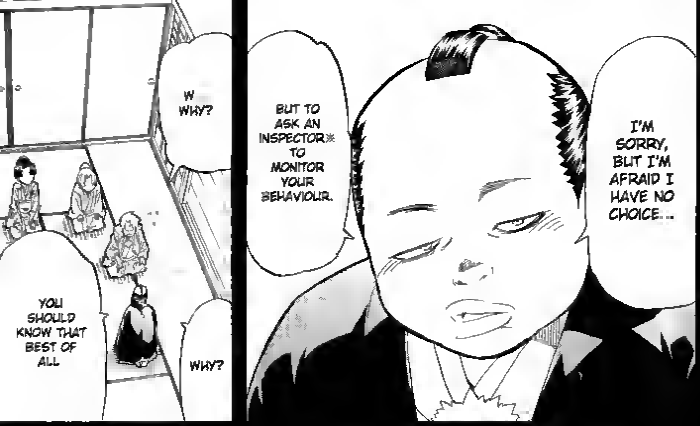
ALTHOUGH I WOULDN'T EXPECT A GREAT SAMURAI TO UNDERSTAND THOSE FEELINGS.
NOT TO MENTION A FORMER MEMBER OF THE KOBUKAN.
IT'S SIMPLY A MATTER OF REFUSING TO YIELD.
THIS IS A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO OVERTHROW THIS MIXED-UP WORLD, AFTER ALL.


.....
IS HONAMI TASUKE OF THE USAGI DOJO.
BUT THE ME OF RIGHT NOW...
THAT'S TRUE.
A SAMURAI WHO'S NOTHING MORE THAN A FORMER MEMBER OF THE KOBUKAN PROBABLY WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND.

MY FATHER, HIKOZAEMON, HAD A DAILY ROUTINE.
EVERY NIGHT, HE WOULD HOLD A BANQUET WITH THE PEASANTS AND DANCE FOR THEM.
HA HAHA! THIS IS GREAT!!
KONAMI-DONO'S FISH SCOOPING DANCE IS THE BEST IN THE WORLD!!

TN: THE FISH SCOOPING DANCE (DOJOUSUKUI) IS A CLASSIC COMEDIC DANCE IN JAPAN THAT TELLS THE STORY OF A PEASANT TRYING TO SCOOP FISH OUT OF A RIVER. HE FAILS MANY TIMES AND GROWS MORE AND MORE FRUSTRATED, UNTIL FINALLY SUCCEEDING.

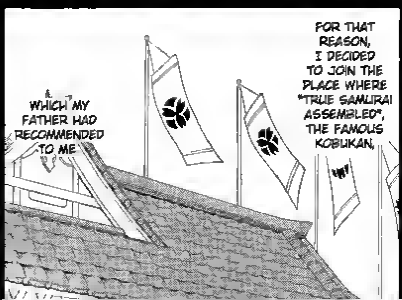

I LIKED HAVING
THAT KIND OF A FATHER.
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE HAVING A GOOD TIME...
わはははは!!!
THE SOCIAL RANKS BUILT UP BY THE BAKUFU MEANT NOTHING TO HIM.
HE FELT THEY WERE "REMARKABLE PEOPLE FOR BEING ABLE TO GROW THINGS SUCH AS RICE."

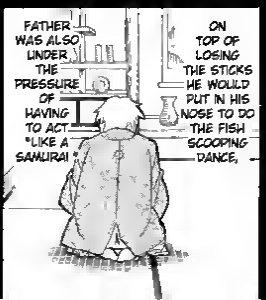

I'M SORRY, BUT I'M AFRAID I HAVE NO CHOICE...
BUT TO ASK AN INSPECTOR※ TO MONITOR YOUR BEHAVIOUR.
W WHY?
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT BEST OF ALL
WHY?

※TO MONITOR SAMURAI CONDUCT WAS THE OFFICIAL DUTY OF AN INSPECTOR.

IF YOU CONTINUE TO HOLD THESE BANQUETS WITH THE PEASANTS, THEN...
THEY COULD EASILY BE CUT DOWN FOR SUCH "RUDENESS."
!!!
PLEASE TRY TO PRESERVE THE DIGNITY OF THE WARRIOR CLASS.
IF YOU FAIL TO DO SO, A CHANGE IN RANK※ IS ALSO POSSIBLE
.....

※HIS HOUSE AND SALARY WOULD BE CONFISCATED AS PUNISHMENT.

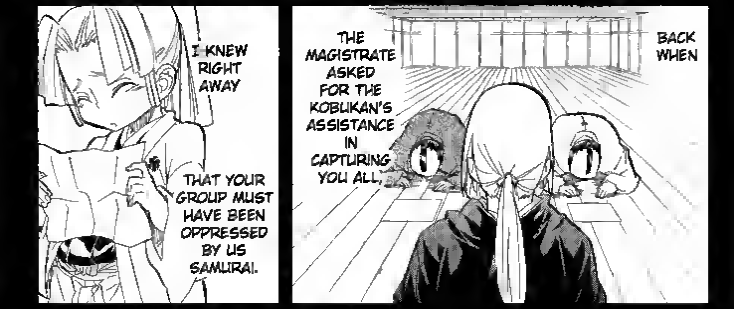

FOR THAT REASON, I DECIDED TO JOIN THE PLACE WHERE "TRUE SAMURAI ASSEMBLED", THE FAMOUS KOBUKAN,
WHICH MY FATHER HAD RECOMMENDED TO ME

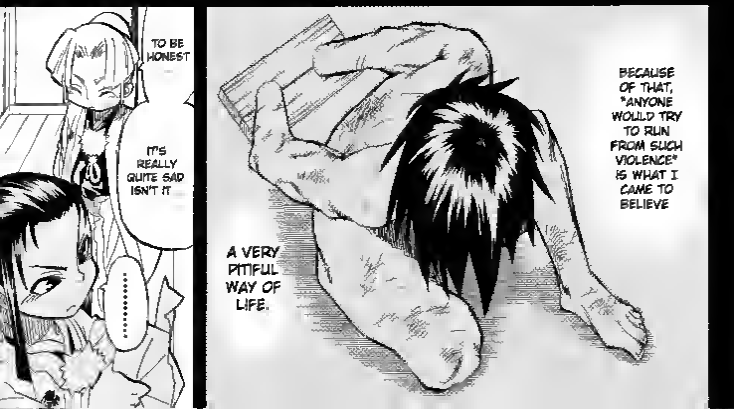

ON TOP OF LOSING THE STICKS HE WOULD PUT IN HIS NOSE TO DO THE FISH SCOOPING DANCE,
FATHER WAS ALSO UNDER THE PRESSURE OF HAVING TO ACT "LIKE A SAMURAI."

TO BE HONEST, I JUST COULDN'T
SO THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE EMPLOYED BY THE BAKUFU...
YEAH...
BRING MYSELF TO LIKE THE KOBUKAN.
...
"PAT-ROL"
.....
THIS IS THE KOBUKAN'S IMPORTANT WORK, NEWBIES.
IT'S WHEN WE GO OUT AND CUT DOWN THOSE SAMURAI WITH NO MANNERS
HEY, HONAMI HAVE YOU HEARD?
BUT EVERY NOW AND THEN
HEARD WHAT?
DOING MY BEST IN THAT PLACE WAS MY OWN RESPONSIBILITY.
I FELT THAT IF IT WOULD SAVE HIM FROM "THE LIKENESS OF A SAMURAI", THEN
STILL, I LISTENED OBEDIENTLY TO MY FATHER'S WORDS.
I WOULD HEAR ABOUT AN UNKNOWN DOJO THAT HAD BECOME THE SOURCE OF MANY RUMOURS AT THE KOBUKAN,
AND MY HEART WOULD WAVER A LITTLE.
HMM M...
IT HAS THREE DISCIPLES, BUT THEY ALL HAVE TOTALLY DIFFERENT SOCIAL STANDINGS
IT SOUNDS LIKE THAT DOJO IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT'S NORMAL.

THERE'S NO WAY A DOJO LIKE THAT ACTUALLY EXISTS!!
IF IT'S A SWORDSMANSHIP DOJO THEN THE KOBUKAN IS THE BEST!
OH MY, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TO FEEL THE EVENING BREEZE AS ALWAYS!!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS BORING TALK!!
.....

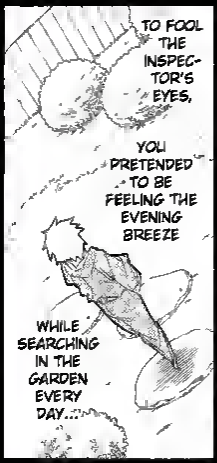
NOB: ...WHO IS THIS WOMAN, TASUKE? YOUR MOM? NOT GOING TO INTRODUCE US? I'LL CALL HER "HANA-SAN" FOR NOW SINCE SHE'S WEARING A FLORAL KIMONO =/

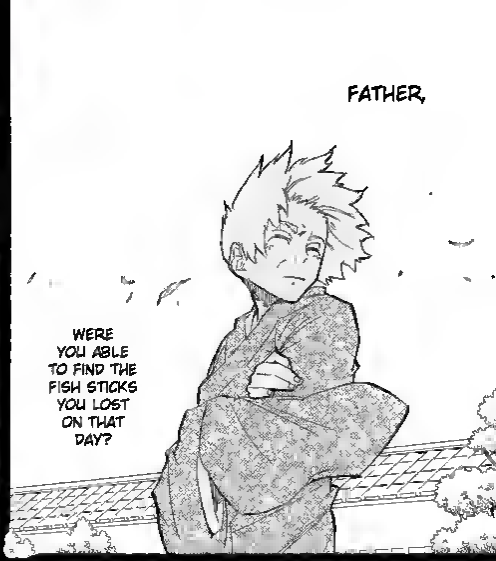

BACK WHEN
THE MAGISTRATE ASKED FOR THE KOBUKAN'S ASSISTANCE IN CAPTURING YOU ALL.
I KNEW RIGHT AWAY
THAT YOUR GROUP MUST HAVE BEEN OPPRESSED BY US SAMURAI.


TO BE HONEST
IT'S REALLY QUITE SAD ISN'T IT
.....
BECAUSE OF THAT, *ANYONE WOULD TRY TO RUN FROM SUCH VIOLENCE* IS WHAT I CAME TO BELIEVE
A VERY PITIFUL WAY OF LIFE.

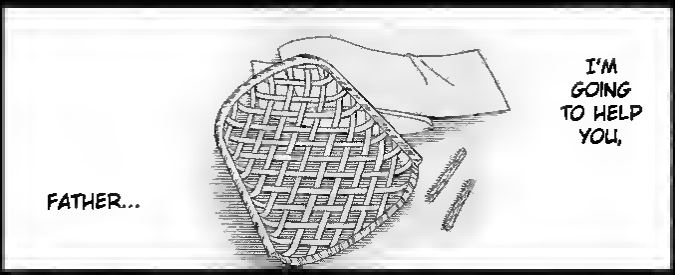
LET'S GO, HONAMI!!
DO THEY INTEND TO TAKE REVENGE ON US SAMURAI!?
THEY'RE A HUNDRED YEARS TOO EARLY!!
HOW IDIOTIC!!!
.. ONCE THAT JOB WAS OVER WITH...
AND PUT THE HEADS OF THOSE WHO DARE TO DEFY THE WARRIOR CLASS ON DISPLAY!!
WE'LL QUICKLY CAPTURE THAT LOT ..
HUH? FATHER
WHAT MY FATHER TRULY WISHED FOR...
I FINALLY CAME TO UNDERSTAND
I WASN'T HELPING MY FATHER AT ALL.
I DECIDED TO QUIT.
EVEN IF I STAYED WITH THE KOBUKAN

WHAT ARE YOU MAKING?
OH, THESE?
WELL THESE ARE...
STICKS THAT YOU PUT INTO YOUR NOSTRILS DURING THE FISH SCOOPING DANCE.
A POPULAR NICKNAME FOR THEM IS "FISH STICKS."
FISH STICKS !!!?
I
YOUR FINGERS ARE ALL SCRATCHED UP!!
THERE'S NO NEED TO MAKE THEM WITH SUCH VIGOUR.
YOU FOOL!!!
THEIR LENGTH... WIDTH... THESE ARE BEING MADE WITH THE INTENTION OF BEING STUCK TO MY FACE...
WHEN I GET TO MAKE EVERYONE LAUGH FROM THE BOTTOM OF THEIR HEARTS FOR THE FIRST TIME!!
AS THANKS FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO GROW RICE...
I MUST AT LEAST DO THIS MUCH TO REPAY THEM!!
.....
DON'T WORRY!
YOU'RE PLENTY AMUSING ALREADY
THAT'S TOO BLUNT, FOOL!!!


TO FOOL THE INSPEC-TOR'S EYES,
YOU PRETENDED TO BE FEELING THE EVENING BREEZE
WHILE SEARCHING IN THE GARDEN EVERY DAY...

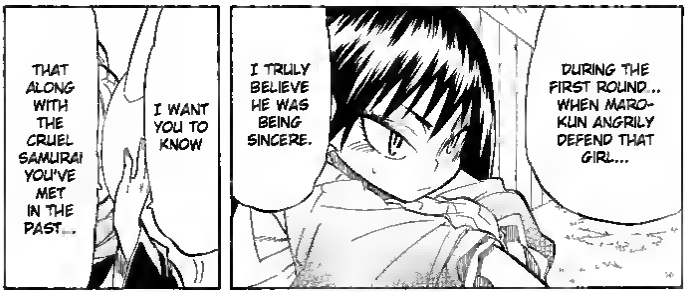

FATHER,
WERE YOU ABLE TO FIND THE FISH STICKS YOU LOST ON THAT DAY?

HAVE FUN WITH EVERYONE ONCE MORE, ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
SO THAT YOU COULD ONE DAY


I'M GOING TO HELP YOU,
FATHER...

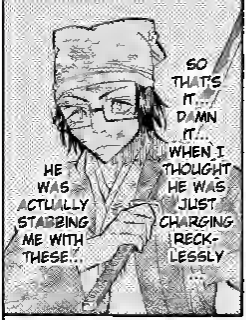
.....
...WITH VARIOUS RUMOURS BEING MY ONLY SOURCE OF INFORMATION, I WAS FINALLY ABLE TO LOCATE
THE DOJO WHICH WOULD
ALLOW ME TO TRULY SAVE MY FATHER.

A DOJO WHERE A PEASANT CHILD AND A DAIMYO'S HEIR CAN STAND SIDE-BY-SIDE AND SWING THEIR SHINAI TOGETHER.
IN ALL OF EDO... NO...
EVEN IF YOU WERE TO SEARCH ALL OF JAPAN, I DOUBT YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO FIND ANOTHER DOJO LIKE THAT.


DURING THE FIRST ROUND.. WHEN MARO-KUN ANGRILY DEFEND THAT GIRL...
I TRULY BELIEVE HE WAS BEING SINCERE.
I WANT YOU TO KNOW
THAT ALONG WITH THE CRUEL SAMURAI YOU'VE MET IN THE PAST...

WONDERFUL SAMURAI WHO WOULD THINK TO CREATE
SOME-THING LIKE THE USAGI DOJO ALSO EXIST!
!!
Y.. YEAH
It's embarrassing~
YOU WERE PRAISED, GOCCHIN !!!

WHY ...
HONAMI-SAMA!?
WHAT'S GOING ON .?
I CAN'T SEEM TO GATHER ANY STRENGTH
IF YOU FEEL AROUND THE RIBS ON YOUR RIGHT SIDE.
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENED
!!

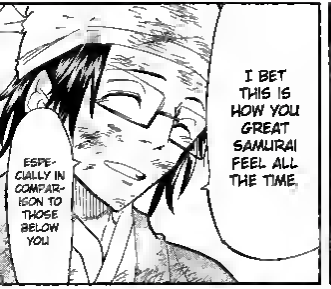

SO THAT'S IT... DAMN IT... WHEN I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST CHARGING RECK-LESSLY...
HE WAS ACTUALLY STABBING ME WITH THESE...

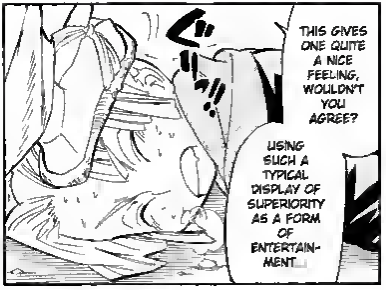
NEEDLES!!!

I HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE ME FOR USING THE KATANA AS A DECOY.
SINCE THIS IS MY TRUE SPECIALITY.
ーン!

I CAN'T MOVE MY BODY AT ALL
DAMN IT

IT WOULD BE A SHAME IF YOU DIED BEFORE ADMITTING DEFEAT, THOUGH, SO THERE ISN'T ENOUGH TO KILL YOU.
I ALSO ADDED A LITTLE ANAESTHETIC AS AN EXTRA BONUS


I BET THIS IS HOW YOU GREAT SAMURAI FEEL ALL THE TIME.
ESPECIALLY IN COMPARISON TO THOSE BELOW YOU


THIS GIVES ONE QUITE A NICE FEELING, WOULDN'T YOU AGREE?
USING SUCH A TYPICAL DISPLAY OF SUPERIORITY AS A FORM OF ENTERTAINMENT.

BUT IT'S RATHER OVERDUE EVEN IF YOU TELL US SOMETHING LIKE THAT NOW.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR TELLING SUCH A HALF-HEARTED STORY OF THE PAST,

OUR INTENTIONS WILL NOT CHANGE.

TRANSLATION NOTES:

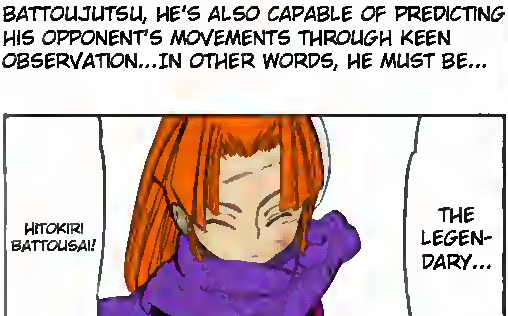
"GOD-SPEED" IAI

ALTHOUGH PREVIOUSLY ALLUDED TO, IT WAS OFFICIALLY REVEALED ON PAGE 02 OF THIS CHAPTER THAT HONAMI TASUKE IS A MASTER OF THE ART OF IAI. AS WAS EXPLAINED IN A SHORT T/N, IAI IS THE ART OF DRAWING YOUR SWORD AND STRIKING YOUR OPPONENT IN THE SAME INSTANCE. IN THE PAST, THIS TECHNIQUE WAS KNOWN AS "BATTOUJUTSU". HONAMI TAKES THIS EVEN FURTHER BY PERFORMING AT "GOD-SPEED." THE WORD USED TO DESCRIBE THIS IN JAPANESE IS "SHINSOKU" OR 神速(しんそく). THIS IS A COMMON TERM IN JAPANESE WRITING USED TO DESCRIBE EXTREME SWIFTNESS.

OBSERVATIONAL SKILLS, OR "MIKIRI"

ON PAGE 06-07 OF THIS CHAPTER, BOTH HONAMI AND TSURUYA MENTION HONAMI'S KEEN OBSERVATIONAL SKILLS- IN JAPANESE, THE WORD FOR THIS IS "MIKIRI" OR 見切り(みきり). THIS TERM WAS FIRST COINED BY A FAMOUS WARRIOR BY THE NAME OF MIYAMOTO MUSASHI, AND WAS USED TO DESCRIBE THE ACT OF OBSERVING YOUR OPPONENT TO THE HIGHEST DEGREE. BY READING THEIR MOMENTS, IT WOULD THEN BECOME POSSIBLE FOR ONE TO PREDICT THEIR NEXT MOVE AND REACT ACCORDINGLY, AS IF READING THEIR MINDS.

SO NOT ONLY IS TASUKE A MASTER OF GOD-SPEED BATTOUJUTSU, HE'S ALSO CAPABLE OF PREDICTING HIS OPPONENT'S MOVEMENTS THROUGH KEEN OBSERVATION...IN OTHER WORDS, HE MUST BE...



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qrrbrbirlbel@hotmail.com

CHAPTER FIFTY-TWO:
PAIN
IT'S VERY PAINFUL, ISN'T IT?
BEING UNABLE TO MOVE YOUR BODY WHILE SOMEONE CUTS YOU UP
IT'S PERFECTLY FINE IF YOU FEEL LIKE SAYING "I GIVE UP."
YOU'RE GOING TO PASS OUT FROM BLOOD LOSS EITHER WAY...
AND IF THIS SITUATION CONTINUES, THEN...

.....
KEEPING YOUR MOUTH SHUT, HM.
THEN LET'S DO ANOTHER STROKE OF THE SWORD-
THAT FOUR-EYES IS SO SPITE-FUL...
TCH ...
.....
WELL, I'M NOT VERY FAMILIAR WITH USING A KATANA, YOU SEE...
SO I MIGHT CUT INTO SOME ODD PLACES... FUFU.

NON-AMI-SA-MA!!
HE WAS ABLE TO STAND UP!!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, HONAMI-DONO!?
GUUUU
!!!
WELL, FROM THE WAY THINGS ARE LOOK-ING
I DON'T THINK WE'LL HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THE POISON ANYMORE, GOSUKE-CHAN.
?
TASUKE-CHAN IS CLEVER,
SO HE WAS PROBABLY WAITING FOR THE POISON TO FLOW OUT ALONG WITH HIS BLOOD.
I SEE ..!
THEY'RE BOTH INJURED TO A SIMILAR DEGREE NOW.
THE OPPONENT'S SPECIALITY HAS BEEN REVEALED, AND HIS DEXTERITY SEEMS TO BE ON PAR WITH HONAMI-DONO'S
WHICH MEANS THAT...

A TRUE, HONEST SWORDS-MANSHIP DUAL!
FROM HERE ON OUT, THIS IS GOING TO BE...
SFX: ZA ZAA!! - QUICK SWIPING
SFX ZUBAA!! - SLASH
SFX SHUU!! - WHOOSH
SFX BUN!! - SWISH
HA!!
... THIS MAN...
AFTER GETTING CUT UP SO MUCH, EVEN HE

FEEL ANY PAIN?
DO YOU NOT
SURELY YOU'RE JOKE-ING!
I'M A MAN WHO HATES PAIN SO MUCH THAT IT MADE ME WANT TO BECOME A DOCTOR.
HIS COM-PLEXTION HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL ...!!!
SFX: ZUAA!! - SWISH
PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO DODGE
MY "BEAK."
YOU MAY BE ABLE TO MOVE AROUND A LITTLE BIT,
BUT IT MUST BE DIFFICULT AFTER LOOSING SO MUCH BLOOD
SHAA!!! - SLICING THROUGH AIR
FAST !!!
HA!!

HUH ...
SFX. GUU!! - GRAB
SHAA!!! - CUTTING THROUGH AIR
SFX. BAA!! - QUICK MOVEMENT
SFX. BAAA!!! - WHIPPING
SFX. ZAZAA!! - QUICK MOVEMENT
OOH!! HE USED HIS SCARF...
AWE-SOME!!

HWA AH!?
SFX: BLIN! - SWOOSH
TCH!!
SFX: GA GA GA GAA!! - IMPACTS
SFX: SHAA!! - WHOOSH!!
WHAT SHOULD I...
HE'S NOT SHOWING ANY SIGNS OF GIVING IN.
BUT... EVEN IF I MANAGE TO GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO CUT HIM...
IT'S TAKING EVERYTHING I HAVE JUST TO KEEP AVOIDING HIS ATTACKS...

SFX: ZAA!!! - QUICK MOVEMENT

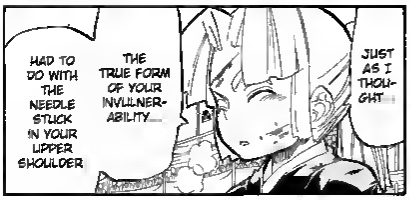
SFX: DAA!!! - DASH

SFX: BYU KA KA KA KAA!!! - WHOOSHING AND RAPID STRIKING
I WONDERED WHAT YOU WERE GOING TO DO.
SHAAAAA!!! - CUTTING THROUGH AIR

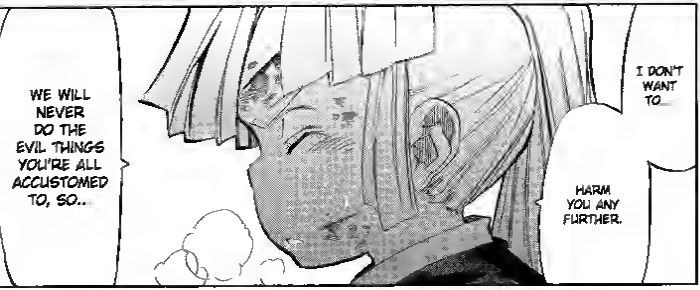
SFX: GA GA!! - HARD IMPACTS

SFX: PHIING...!!!

SFX: DO!! - HEARTBEAT



HAA...
HAA...
MAY I...
ASK ONE THING OF YOU?


I DON'T WANT TO...
HARM YOU ANY FURTHER.
WE WILL NEVER DO THE EVIL THINGS YOU'RE ALL ACCUSTOMED TO, SO..

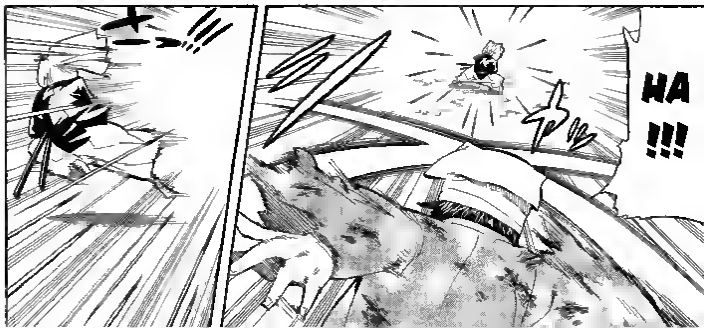
AFTER BEING WOUNDED TO SUCH A DEGREE
NOW THAT HE'S FINALLY FEELING THE PAIN OF IT, HE MUST BE STRUGGLING TO STAY CONSCIOUS...
.....
TO THE USAGI DOJO?
WOULD YOU PLEASE ENTRUST EVERY-THING...

SFX: SU... - SLOW BENDING

SFX: ZAA!! - SHARP MOVEMENT

SFX: SAA!! - QUICK STEP

SFX: SHAA - CUTTING THROUGH AIR



SFX: ZAN!!!- SLICE

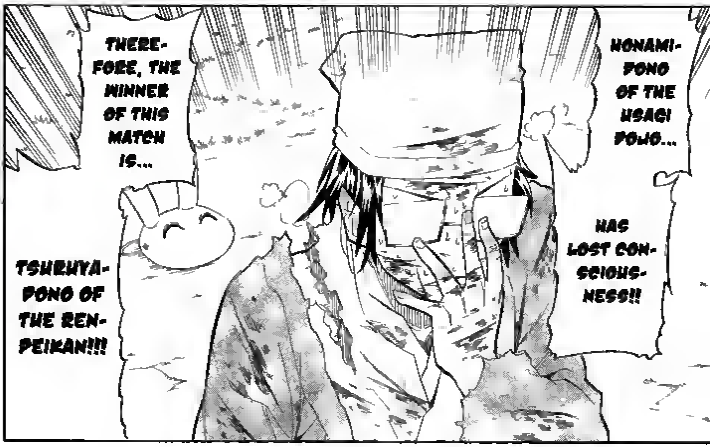
I FOUND 'EM SITTING IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE ACROSS THE WAY
THEY'RE IMPORTANT FOR STUDYING, RIGHT? DON'T GO DROPPING IT ALL!!!
SUZUME-SAN, THESE ARE...
ドッ ドッ
HAHA. I WILL!
DO YOUR BEST, TSURU-YAAAN
YOU'LL LOOK AFTER US FOR FREE, RIGHT!?
I'M SURE YOU CAN DO IT, TSURUYA!!
THAT'S RIGHT!
I'LL DO MY BEST TO BECOME A GOOD DOCTOR!!
TH...THANK YOU. I WAS TROUBLED WHEN I THOUGHT I'D LOST THEM...
.....

WHA... WHAT HAPPENED, EVERYONE?
YOUR FACES ARE.
"SOMEONE LIKE YOU COULD NEVER BECOME A DOCTOR! EVEN IF YOU DID, NO ONE WOULD COME TO YOU!!"
WE HEARD THAT THE KID FROM THAT BUSHI HOUSEHOLD ACROSS THE WAY SAID THAT TO YOU
ON TOP OF THAT, HE EVEN THREW YOUR STUDY BOOKS ON THE GROUND.
WE FOUND OUT AFTER PRESSING HIM FOR INFO.
WHY THE HELL DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING!
.....
BUT... DOING THAT WOULD BE A BOTHER ...
AND MAKE EVERY-ONE UPSET..
YOU AND...
ASUKA ...

COMPARED TO YOU BEING MADE FUN OF BY THOSE SAMURAI...
THAT WOULDN'T BOTHER US AT ALL.
AND IT'S NOT JUST US WHO THINK THIS.
ISN'T THAT A LITTLE HARSH, SUZUME-CCHI!!!?
NEXT TIME THIS HAPPENS YOU SHOULD SPEAK UP, FOUR-EYES!
YEAH
SORRY
ASUKA DOES TOO
.....
!!!
HON-AMI-DONO !!!
HON-AMI-SAMA !!!

THE PROMISE TO SHARE THE PAIN OF BEING DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BY THE SAMURAI IS WHAT BONDS ALL OF US TOGETHER ....
I CAN STILL BREATH!! MY HEART IS STILL BEATING!!! COMPARED TO ASUKA I...!!!
SFX. ZAN!!! - SLICE

.....
ド...


HONAMI-DONO OF THE USAGI DOJO...
HAS LOST CONSCIOUSNESS!!
THEREFORE, THE WINNER OF THIS MATCH IS...
TSUBUYA-DONO OF THE REN-PEIKAN!!!

YOU USAGI DOJO MEMBERS
IF HONAMI-SAN WAKES UP, PLEASE TELL HIM I SAID THIS.

HONA-MI!!IN !!!
HON-AMI-DONO !!!

6 THE SECOND ROUND BEGINS (END)

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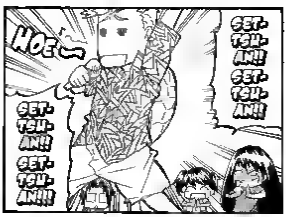
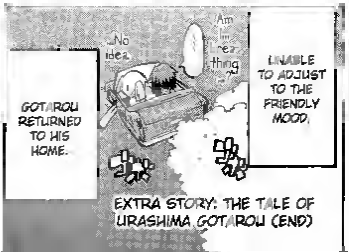
Extra Story
THE TALE OF
URASHIMA
GOTAROU
AFTER RESCUING A TURTLE, URASHIMA GOTAROU WAS BROUGHT TO THE UNDERWATER PALACE OF RYUUGUU!
THE SHELL ON HIS BACK IS A CRAZY PATTERN, HUH.
THANKS FOR SAVING THE TURTLE!
THE FACT THAT HE CAN'T ANSWER MUST MEAN THAT HE'S A REALLY UNSOCIABLE JERK.
Dear
THANKS FOR SAVING THE TURTLE!
I THINK I SAW MY LATE BROTHER AND FATHER...
fluff
fluff
One hour later.
starfish
WEL-COME!
A FEAST HAS BEEN PREPARED, SO ENJOY YOURSELF!
RIGHT THIS WAY!

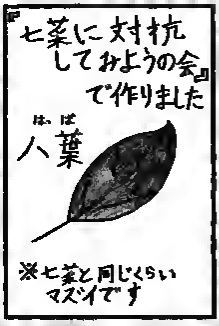


↑ This is apple juice.


GOTAROU RETURNED TO HIS HOME.
...No idea.
Am I... the... thing?
UNABLE TO ADJUST TO THE FRIENDLY MOOD.
EXTRA STORY: THE TALE OF URASHIMA GOTAROU (END)

きものうさぎ
Kimono Usagi
Lots of energy!
Ainu style!
Huh? Suzume?
KIMONO SUZUME
AICHI PREFECTURE
TANPOPPO-SAN
SHIMANE PREFECTURE
RYORYO-SAN
HYOUGO PREFECTURE

おえかきSAGA



CHIBA PREFECTURE
ONABE-SAN

COULD THIS BE THE LOCAL DELICACY OF THE LEAF VILLIAGE!!?

THE TWO OF THEM ARE HAVING A GOOD TIME GATHERING NANA HERBS!!

KAGAWA PREFECTURE
OOKAWA MISAKI-SAN

SHIZUOKA PREFECTURE

YAMA-ZAKURA-SAN

IS THIS THE STRONGEST DUO IN EDO!? HOW REFINED!!

IBARAKI PREFECTURE
STANDLEY-SAN

EVERYONE LOOKS SO CUTE!! IT MAKES ME WANT TO MAKE FIGURES OUT OF THEM!!

HIROSHIMA PREFECTURE
TSUKI-SAN

IS HANZOU BULLYING TASUKE? THESE TWO DO MAKE A GOOD COMBINATION THOUGH!

DRAWING 4 GIRLS

THESE TWO ARE LOOKING CUTE IN THEIR SWIMSUITS! THEIR CHOICE OF SWIMSUIT COLORS IS ALSO NICE!

KANAGAWA PREFECTURE
DAYDREAM GIRL-SAN

KIKU-CHAN IS BORROWING HIS GLASSES! WILL IT HELP HER STUDIES?

AICHI PREFECTURE
YUUKI REIKU-SAN

YAMANASHI PREFECTURE
ARUI-SAN

DO YOUR BEST, GIRLS!! ...WAIT, IS THAT MARO!?

TOKYO METROPOLIS
GUGUMIN-SAN

HE FIGHTS FOR THE SAKE OF WHAT HE BELIEVES IN!!

GUNMA PREFECTURE
FLUORINE-SAN

A VERY CALM EXPRESSION HAS BEEN DRAWN! THE BRUSH STROKES GIVES IT A VERY NICE STYLE!!

DRAWING 4 KOMA

KANAGAWA PREFECTURE
SETO MIYUKI-SAN

HIS WISH IS TO PROTECT THE USAGI PEACEFULNESS OF THE USAGI DOJO! GOSUKE'S FEELINGS WILL REACH THEM!!

EVEN IF SHE WERE TO ASK "GUESS WHO?" THE ANSWER IS OBVIOUS!

SAITAMA PREFECTURE
CAT HOTPOT-SAN

CHIBA PREFECTURE

SILLY KITTY-SAN

HER SMILE IS WHAT GIVES GOSUKE STRENGTH!!

OKAYAMA PREFECTURE
AITA HIRU-SAN

A CHEERFUL STROLL ON A NICE WARM DAY! IT SURE LOOKS LIKE FUN!!

THERE'S A SPECIAL MOOD IN THE AIR WHEN SHE LETS HER HAIR DOWN!

SAITAMA PREFECTURE
GORABISOU-SAN

BACK IN VOLUME 2 AFTER HE CAUGHT UP TO THE RUNNING GOSUKE, SETTSU-DONO TELLS HIM HE'S REALLY FAST AND SEEMED TO BE VERY WORN OUT. LATER ON IN VOLUME 3, HE CARRIES SHINO UP ONTO THE ROOF SO SHE CAN WATCH THE MATCH BETWEEN GOSUKE AND OLD MAN SADA. HE COMPLAINES THAT SHE'S HEAVY AND LOOKED TO BE IN PAIN. DURING THESE SCENES, I COULDN'T HELP BUT THINK, IS SETTSU-DONO REALLY THAT INCOMPETENT? ALSO, IF THE MEMBERS OF THE USAGI DOJO WERE TO COMPETE AGAINST EACH OTHER IN ARM WRESTLING OR RACING, WHAT WOULD THE WINNING ORDER LOOK LIKE? PLEASE TELL ME!

SHIZUOKA PREFECTURE　SHINRA-SAN

IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE HE SMOKES SO MUCH TOBACCO. IT'S NOT AS THOUGH SETTSU ISN'T STRONG, HE'S JUST SLUGGISH.

IF THE COMPETITIONS WERE ARM WRESTLING AND A RACE, THE WINNING ORDERS WOULD PROBABLY LOOK LIKE THIS:

NOW THAT SHINO-CHAN IS MARRIED, DOES SETTSU-SAN LIVE ALONE? OR DOES HE HAVE A SERVANT OR MAID LIVING WITH HIM?? HE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HE'D BE GOOD AT DOING HOUSEWORK...

KANEGAWA PREFECTURE　KAGETSU-SAN

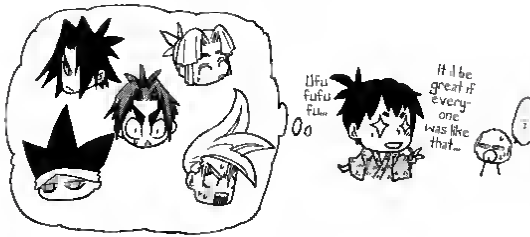
HE LIVES ALONE. SETTSU IS A POOR SAMURAI JUST LIKE GOSUKE, SO HE CAN'T HIRE ANY SERVANTS OR MAIDS. HOWEVER, HE IS SURPRISINGLY GOOD AT DOING HOUSEWORK. THEIR PARENTS PASSED AWAY WHEN THEY WERE YOUNG, AFTER ALL, AND SINCE HE HAD TO RAISE SHINO BY HIMSELF, LEARNING THESE THINGS PROBABLY CAME NATURALLY TO HIM.

IS MARO HUMAN? ALSO, DID THE CHEIF OF NANANA VILLAGE ORDER ALL THE MEN TO HAVE THE SAME HAIRSTYLE?

GUNMA PREFECTURE MONOCHROME USAGI-SAN

MARO IS HUMAN. .PROBABLY.

BY EATTING NANA HERBS ALL THE TIME, THE MENS' HAIRSTYLES CHANGED NATURALLY.



APPLICATIONS ARE STILL BEING ACCEPTED!!!!

YOU SAID "I WANT TO DRAW PICTURES" AND SO...

YOU'RE NOW IN CHARGE OF "DRAWING USAGI"!!

AFTER WRITING WHATEVER CAME TO MIND...

YOU'RE NOW IN CHARGE OF "QUESTION USAGI"!!

NOC: INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO ENTER INTO THE VARIOUS OMAKE SECTIONS WERE PLACED HERE IN THE RAWS, BUT I'VE CHOSEN TO OMIT THEM BECAUSE THEY NO LONGER HAVE ANY USE SEEING AS THE MANGA WAS COMPLETED IN 2009. DURING ITS SERIALIZATION, FANS WOULD SEND IN IDEAS ON KIMONO PATTERNS/STYLES FOR SHINO, FAN ART OF VARIOUS CHARACTERS AND QUESTIONS FOR THE AUTHOR, WHICH WERE LATER INCLUDED IN THE COMPILED VOLUMES AS YOU'VE SEEN IN THESE EXTRAS. I'VE FOUND THEM ALL TO BE VERY WONDERFUL TO READ (I ESPECIALLY LOVED SEEING SHINO IN SO MANY DIFFERENT KIMONO, SO IT'S A SHAME THAT THEY'RE NO LONGER ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THAT SEGMENT!) SO YOU TOO CAN LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING WHAT EVERYONE SENT IN FOR VOLUME SEVEN AND ONWARDS!

SAMURAI USAGI SCANLATION

VISIT THE SAMURAI USAGI SCANLATION BLOG FOR THE LATEST CHAPTER RELEASES AND SERIES UPDATES!

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FOR ANY IN-DEPTH INQUIERES, FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ME PERSONALLY THROUGH E-MAIL.

qrrbrbirlbel@hotmail.com